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TO : All Licensed Manning Agencies

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The Japanese Diet (Parliament) has passed a law that complements global efforts to ensure safe passage for ships plying the Gulf of Aden and other maritime trading areas. The new law called "The Law on Penalization of Acts of Piracy and Measures Against Act of Piracy" aims to protect not only Japan-flag vessels but also vessels of other countries from piracy and hijacking.

In accordance with the new legislation, the Japanese Embassy in Manila announced that the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has started the implementation of an "escort operation" system to all foreign vessels regardless of nationality.

To avail of the "escort operation" system, pre-registration is required. The MLIT will then send a "summary of Escort Operations" to the applicant. Subsequently, an ID and password shall be provided by the Ministry of Defense, Japan, to the applicant to check the MSDF escort schedule and other related information.

The pre-registration form may be downloaded from the MLIT website (http://www.mlit.go.jp/maritime/gaikoh/pirate/index.html) and the accomplished form should be sent by email to the MLIT Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office (INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp). Pre-registration can be made anytime.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

JENNIFER JARDIN-MANALILI
Administrator