

Remarks\_Chairman\_SHUKURI  
MOU signing

Namaskar.

I am SHUKURI Masafumi, Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute.

Please allow me to say a few words, on the occasion of signing the Memorandum of Understanding among IPA, CMEC, and JTTRI today,

Japan, surrounded by the sea, is a maritime nation that has built its prosperity by deepening trade and exchange with countries around the world through the sea.

It goes without saying, that the development of maritime and port sector is of extreme importance to Japan's economy and society as well as to the daily lives of its people.

India also is surrounded by large oceans, and 95% of India's trade volume relies on maritime transport, making it also a maritime nation. Both countries occupy strategically important positions in the Indo-Pacific for global logistics and connectivity.

Meanwhile, instability in the international order including the maritime order has become increasingly evident in recent years.

With the Strait of Hormuz effectively under blockade, international shipping, logistics, and global supply chains are facing major disruptions.

Furthermore, decarbonization- including in the maritime and port sector- has become an important global challenge.

These issues cannot be resolved by any single nation alone. Sharing of knowledge and joint efforts through cooperation and coordination among countries worldwide are essential.

Against this backdrop, during my online meeting with IPA and CMEC last December, I was convinced that our institutions share common areas of interest.

The signing of this MOU today by our three organizations in Japan and India holds great significance not only for our two countries but also for the global maritime community.

I expect this agreement to promote mutual exchange, research collaboration, sharing of research outcomes, and joint seminars among our three institutions.

So far, JTTRI has concluded MOUs with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) in August 2024 and with the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) in October 2025, thereby establishing a cooperative framework between Japan and India that covers both land and maritime domains.

With the signing of today's MOU with IPA and CMEC, our cooperation in the maritime and port sectors will be further strengthened.

In addition, JTTRI plans to open an office in New Delhi this autumn, which will oversee the South Asian region with a focus on India.

Once established, JTTRI will steadily enhance our cooperative and collaborative activities through this office.

May 29<sup>th</sup> 2026

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to IPA and CMEC for their cooperation, including their preparation for today's MoU signing, and we appreciate your continued cooperation in advancing our future activities.

Dhanyawaad .

Thank you so much.