Strengthening Maritime Industry

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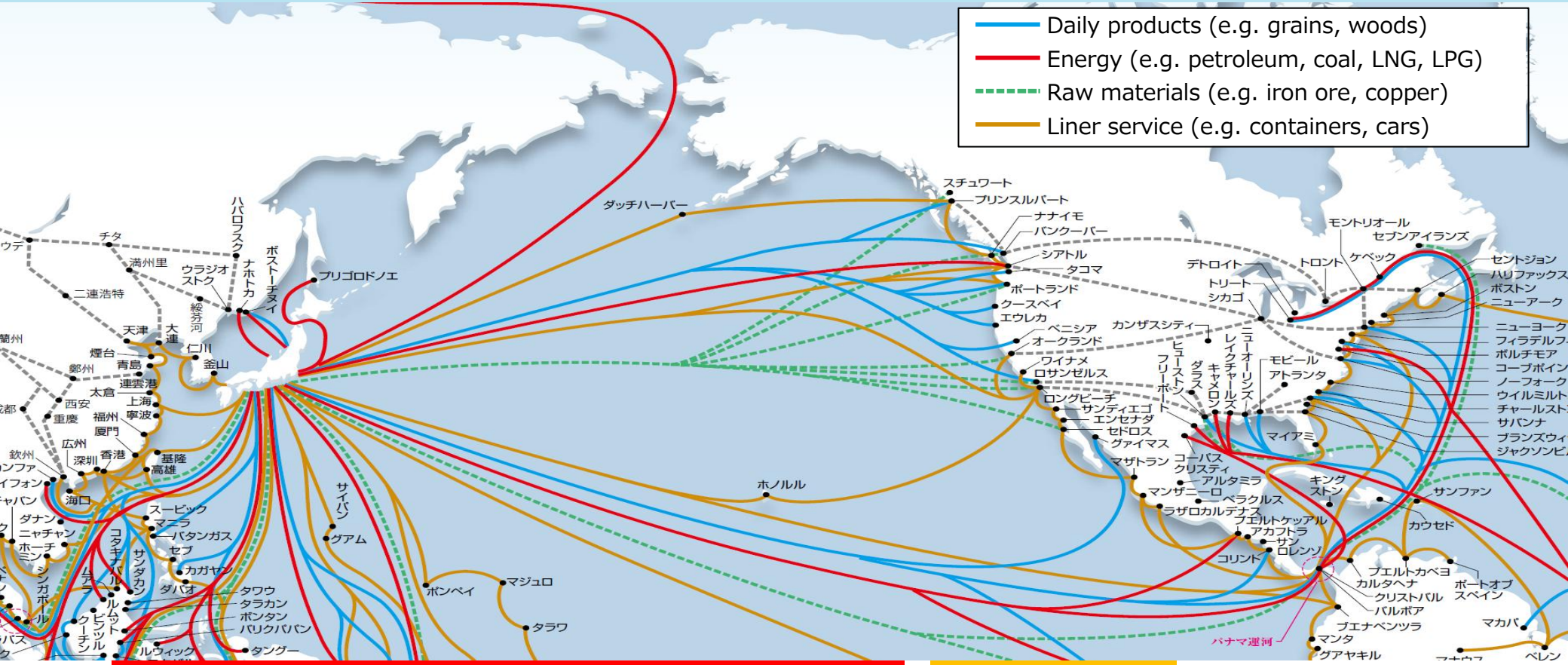
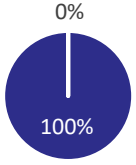
1. Why Maritime Industry so crucial?

Ocean as lifeline



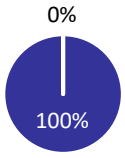
Energy

Crude Oil



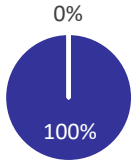
■Sea ■Air

Coal



■Sea ■Air

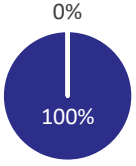
LNG



■Sea ■Air

Food

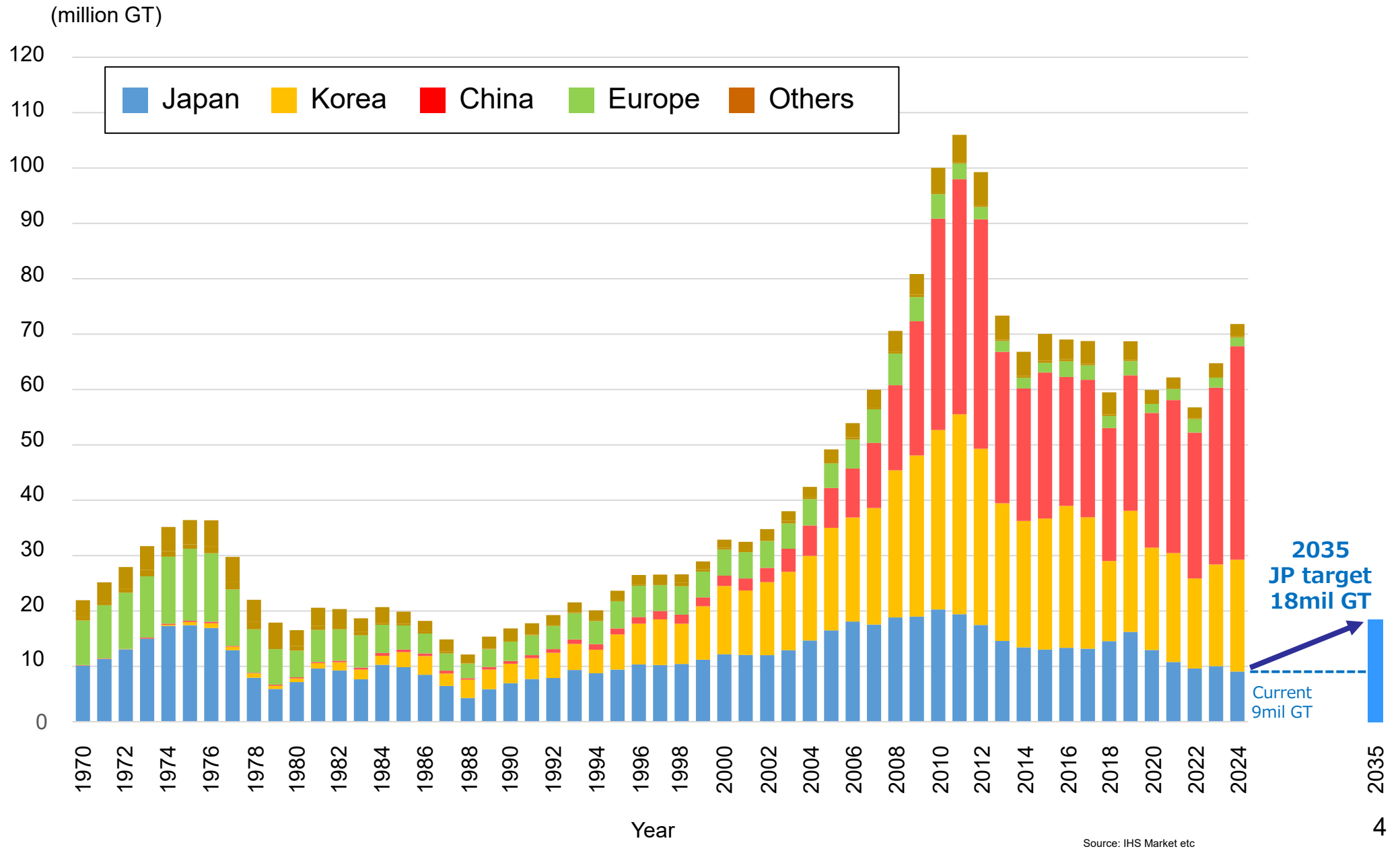
Food



■Sea ■Air

100%
of Energy/Food Imports to JAPAN by Sea Transport

Shipbuilding of commercial vessels



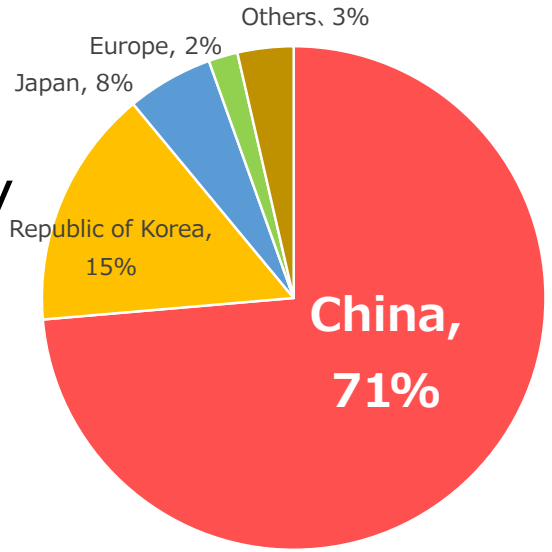
Source: IHS Market etc

Challenges

- **Challenges to Safety and Freedom of Navigation**
  - ✓ Attacks by terrorists
  - ✓ Geopolitical conflicts
  - ✓ Unilateral tolls/fees



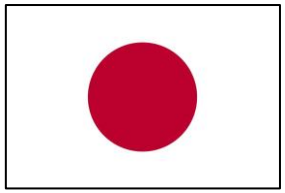
- **Challenges to Shipbuilding and its supply-chain**
  - ✓ Market dominance by a single country
  - ✓ Market distorting subsidies
  - ✓ Trade restriction measures



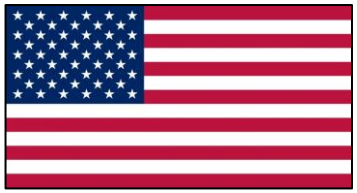
Newbuilding order in 2024

2. Addressing challenges

Japan-US Shipbuilding MOC



Signed by
Minister Kaneko and Secretary Lutnick
(October 28, 2025)



Areas of Cooperation

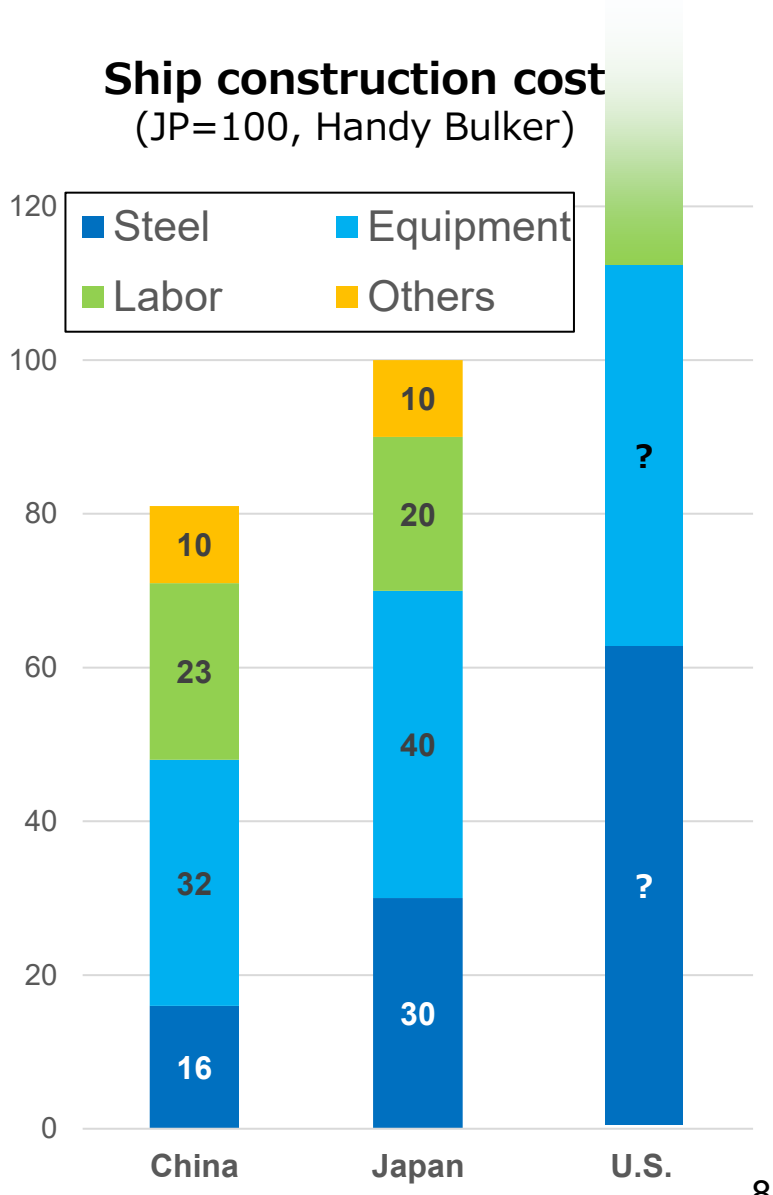
1. **Expansion of Japan-U.S. Shipbuilding Capacity**
2. **Facilitation of Investment in the U.S. Maritime Industrial Base**
3. **Supporting Vessel Demand for Market Economies**
4. **Workforce Development**
5. **Technological Innovation**





How to bring synergies?

	Japan	U.S.
Strengths	✓**Design capacity** ✓**Superior productivity** ✓**Strong demand** ✓**Strong supply-chain**	✓**SI & Robotics** ✓**Innovation**
Limitations	✓Higher material cost than China ✓Labor force (skill transfer)	✓Uncertain demand ✓High cost ✓Low productivity ✓Less supply-chain



Ongoing initiatives under Japan-U.S. MOC

MLIT
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

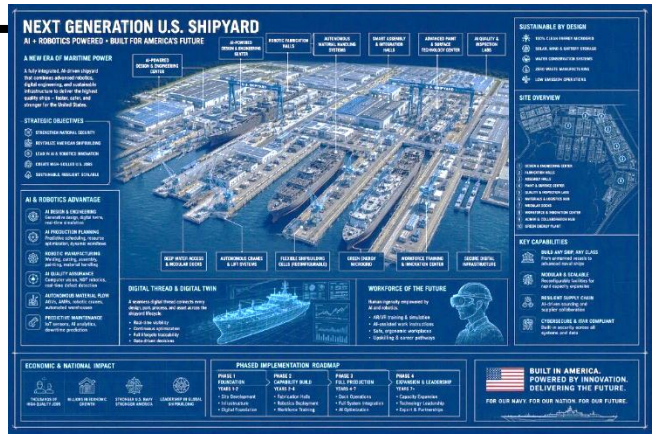
1. **Japan-U.S. joint R&D** for **SI & Robotics** Shipbuilding Technology



2. **Expert Missions** for **business & market** analysis

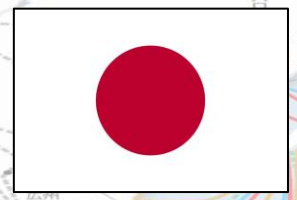


3. **Blueprint** for Next-Gen. **U.S. shipyards**

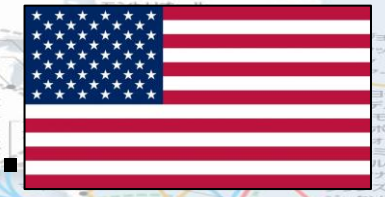


4. **Japan-U.S. Working Group** for discussing challenges

Strengthening Japan-U.S. Maritime Transport



Maritime Transport for Mutual benefit to Japan and U.S.



Key Factors

- Free and Fair Competitive Environment
- Regulatory Predictability
- Commercially Sustainable Conditions

3. Conclusion



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