

Japan's leading maritime newspaper. Information and communication for seamen. Published on the 1st of every month. The new style issue of "KAIJO-NO-TOMO"

Journal for all the Mariners

No. 161

Japan Maritime Public Relations Center
2-12-6 Minato, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0043 Japan
Tel: 03-3552-5034
Fax: 03-3553-6580
E-mail: kaijo-no-tomo@kaijipr.or.jp



Photo courtesy: TOKOKAI

Japanese Lighthouses Watch over Ships and Seafarers

Rokkosaki Lighthouse

Standing at the northeastern-most tip of the Noto Peninsula, this lighthouse is a beautiful white structure that still reflects the architectural style of the Meiji era. Perched atop a 46-meter cliff, it has guided vessels through the waters off Rokkosaki ever since it was first lit on July 10, 1883.

The waters around Rokkosaki—a crucial waypoint for ships navigating the northern sea route—have long been known for frequent shipwrecks. In 1756 a request was made to establish a permanent bonfire beacon. According to tradition, a beacon tower was built on Yamabushi Mountain behind the cape, where oil was poured into a fire bowl and lit in an effort to prevent marine

accidents.

The stones used to build this lighthouse—standing firm against more than a century of wind and snow while preserving its majestic presence—were quarried in Anamizu Town in the Kō District, far across Nanao Bay. They were carried by small boats along a roughly 60-kilometer sea route, then hauled up to the site by hand using a cableway installed on the cape. The construction, known for its difficulty, is said to have taken about two years to complete.

One distinctive feature of this lighthouse is the commemorative plaque above the entrance—this is the only lighthouse in Japan to bear the Imperial Chrysanthemum Crest.

Location: Noroshi-machi, Suzu-shi, Ishikawa Prefecture

Start of operation: July 10, 1883

Structure: Stone

Height: 12m

Illumination: Iso W 6s (white isophase light, period 6 seconds)

Range: 18.0 nautical miles (about 33 km)



New Year's Messages from the Presidents of Japan's 3 Major Shipping Companies: Supporting Everyday Life in a Turbulent World

As 2026 begins, the presidents of Japan's three major ocean shipping companies have issued their New Year's messages.

The past year brought considerable turbulence to the global political and economic landscape — from U.S.–China tensions and escalating conflicts in the Middle East to the prolonged Russia–Ukraine situation and the inauguration of the Trump administration. Yet even amid such unpredictable global shifts, maritime transport continues to operate without pause. Below are the key takeaways from the presidents' New Year's messages.

Reaffirming Our Mission and DNA — 'Bringing Value to Life'

**Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha
President & CEO Takaya Soga**

Looking ahead to fiscal 2026, starting in April, this will be the final year of our current medium-term management plan and the 141st year since our founding. Over the past three years, we have strengthened our business foundations, executed strategic M&A and vessel investments for stable future returns, advanced decarbonization technologies and new businesses through collaborative ini-

tiatives across Japan, improved capital efficiency, and introduced systems and wage revisions to ensure employees can work with pride and vitality. Across AX, BX, CX, and EX, we have made steady progress. While fiscal 2026 marks a year of culmination, we should not be bound by this



notion — let us continue with necessary actions beyond this timeframe.

Among our priorities, we will further accelerate digital transformation (DX). The Nikuman Project successfully completed the migration of our core systems, and we now enter a critical phase: implementing concrete measures across the group to achieve significant process efficiencies and automated outputs for management. Regarding AI, beyond large-scale system applications, I urge each of

you to adopt the principle I often share: "Let machines do what machines can." Utilize AI at the individual level to enhance processes and drive grassroots initiatives. Cybersecurity is another area requiring vigilance—not only at the organizational level but also individually, including on board.

Let us reaffirm our mission and DNA — "Bringing value to life." In 2026, our 141st year, I look forward to taking new steps forward together with all of you.

MOL Launches Phase 2 of 'BLUE ACTION 2035'

**Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.
President & CEO Takeshi Hashimoto**

2025 was a year of significant upheaval in global political and economic environments. At the start of the year, the United States underwent a change in administration, resulting in major shifts in trade and environmental policies. This led to increased complexity in tariffs and port usage fees in the logistics sector, and there were many instances where operational stability was compromised. The overall economy was negatively affected, making it a challenging year for the shipping industry, including our company. However, I feel that stability gradually

returned in the latter half of the year.

With the end of fiscal 2025, our group's long-term management plan "BLUE ACTION 2035" Phase 1 (FY2023-2025) concludes. Over these three years, we increased our equity capital to the 2.5 trillion yen level and, in addition to investments in LNG carriers and FSRUs—our areas of strength—we actively expanded our business beyond conventional boundaries, acquiring overseas tank terminal companies and multi-



ple high-quality overseas real estate properties, investing in offshore wind power projects, and purchasing cruise ships.

"BLUE ACTION 2035" Phase 2 (FY2026-2030) will begin in fiscal 2026. The specific management plan for Phase 2 is currently being developed internally, but our focus will be on quickly monetizing the investments accumulated mainly during Phase 1 and steadily achieving results. At the same time, while maintaining financial discipline, we will continue to strengthen shareholder returns and invest in business areas where our competitive edges can be leveraged, aiming to further enhance corporate value.

To take on this major challenge, we will focus on creating an environment where diverse talent can thrive and on developing globally minded personnel. We will maximize the potential of regional organizations strengthened through regional strategies and new talent acquired through M&A and mid-career recruitment, aiming to enhance organizational capabilities.

As a social infrastructure company supporting global logistics, we will continue to flexibly and boldly tackle changing international circumstances and environmental challenges.

'K' Line: Advancing with 3 Foundational Pillars

**Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.
President & CEO Takenori Igarashi**

FY2026—the final year of our medium-term plan—will be a crucial year for advancing to the next stage of our growth, building on our efforts and achievements to date.

We believe that the source of our competitiveness lies in our maritime technology expertise, backed by extensive experience and advanced know-how cultivated through the operation and management of diverse types of vessels; our technological capabilities in shipbuilding, environmental, and marine fields; and our strong,

trusting relationships with global customers and partners. We have honed our engineering capabilities to maximize these strengths and provide customers with optimal solutions in areas such as fuel conversion and supply chain decarbonization.

Looking ahead, we will actively leverage these engineering capabilities—centered on our core shipping business—to contribute to building new supply chains,



fulfilling our responsibility to society as a logistics infrastructure company while aiming to further enhance our corporate value by strengthening profitability.

Three foundational pillars—human resources & organization, digital/DX, and management control—will be key to meeting future challenges.

In human resources & organization, we will secure and develop talent dedicated to solving issues both at sea and on land. Organizationally, we will redesign our structure to strengthen access to growth markets by developing our global network.

In digital/DX, we will advance data development for decision-making, business process execution, and value creation. We aim to achieve data-driven management and engage in external collaboration and partnerships.

In management control, we will seek to further increase the sophistication of our business operations and investment decisions. We will maximize returns exceeding the cost of capital, based on the characteristics of each business, while driving corporate value enhancement.

Crew Family Christmas Party Celebrates Seafarers and Their Families in the Philippines

Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. ("K" Line) hosted its annual Crew Family Christmas Party across multiple locations in the Philippines from November through December to express heartfelt appreciation to Filipino seafarers serving on "K" Line Group vessels, as well as their families.

The celebrations were held not only in the city of Manila but also in regions where many seafarers reside, drawing several hundred participants at each venue. President & CEO Takenori Igarashi,

other "K" Line executives, and management representatives from "K" Line Group manning companies in Japan, Singapore, and London joined the festivities, sharing joyful moments and conveying their gratitude.

During the event, President & CEO Igarashi emphasized that "The dedicated efforts of our seafarers, along with the understanding and support of their families, form the foundation that sustains the company's growth," underscoring the company's deep gratitude. At each venue,



Scenes from the ceremony

a Seafarers' Recognition and Long-Service Award Ceremony was also held to honor seafarers who have contributed to safe operations over many years.

Last month's issue

Can You Spot All the Mistakes?
—Correct Answers



The seven mistakes are circled (○). Did you find all of them?



Located in the center of Tokyo, this hotel offers a cozy hideaway from the frantic pace of urban life. Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo (Harumi, Chuo-ku), a favorite spot for 35 years as the All Japan Seamen’s Union’s Welfare Training Center, renovated on November 2024.

This feature highlights the charm of its newly refurbished accommodations, shows its ocean-themed design and family-friendly room layouts.

Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo in the Harumi district opened in December 1989 with the mission of offering “a place of relaxation for maritime workers and their families.”

Since its establishment in a corner of the Harumi district of Tokyo, it has been appreciated as a welcoming base where seafarers of JSU members and people in the maritime industry can stay, train, and connect with one another.

The hotel enjoys excellent access: roughly a 15-minute drive from Tokyo station and about a 10-minute walk from Exit A5 of Kachidoki Station on the Toei Oedo Line. It also provides direct links to the Shinbashi and Tokyo Station areas via Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Toei Bus routes, making it a convenient choice for both business and leisure travelers.

The renovation features a soothing blue-toned color palette accented with warm woodgrain, drawing inspiration from the themes of “Cruise” and “Voyage.”

Every guest room is equipped with a humidifying air purifier, and essential amenities have been upgraded to the most modern standards. The beds, supplied by Japanese manufacturer France Bed Co., Ltd., add to the comfort, while thoughtful touches—from lighting placement to the quality of illumination—create a relaxing and refined environment.

All guest rooms are non-smoking. A designated smoking areas is only located in the grand floor. Common areas on the guest room floors are illuminated by marine lights originally used on actual vessels, adding a subtle nautical atmosphere.

Twin rooms have movable beds that families can place side by side for added comfort. While traditional Japanese-style rooms have been updated to Western-style layouts to match changing tastes, new Japanese-Western hybrid rooms with *tatami* spaces have also been built.

This refreshed room lineup now caters to families with young children as well as solo guests long-term stayers.

Breakfast is served at the 12th-floor restaurant *Le Havre*, where guests can enjoy a wide variety of Japanese and Western foods in a bright, open space.

The facility also includes roughly 20 meeting rooms of various sizes, making it suitable for a wide range of uses, from seafarers’ family gatherings to corporate training sessions and local community events.

A café on the first floor, the newly opened Roppongi Coffee Harumi Branch, offers house-roasted coffee. This is Roppongi Coffee’s second branch; the main store is on the first floor of the JSS Building that houses the Japan Seamen’s Welfare Center (JSS) beside the All Japan Seamen’s Union Headquarters in Roppongi.

A highlight of the Harumi Branch is its large coffee roaster, visible through a glass partition. All staff members undergo specialized training in roasting.

The café also serves popular children’s treats such as soft-serve ice cream, steadily attracting local patrons and becoming a neighborhood gathering spot.

The neighborhood around the hotel has also changed significantly in recent years. In the rapidly developing Harumi and Ariake districts, large residential complexes and commercial facilities—including *Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai*—have opened in succession.

From Harumi, visitors have easy access to a wide range of destinations, including Tokyo Disney Resort, the Kabukiza Theatre, Toyosu Market, and Tokyo Big Sight.

Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo continues to fulfill its founding mission as a “seafarers’ welfare and training center” for union members and their families.

JSU members are eligible for half-price stays (¥7,500 for a single room) upon presenting their membership card or proof of company affiliation. Conference and banquet facilities are also available at a 30% discount when reserved through a member referral.

A union representative noted, “The spirit of providing a place of rest for maritime workers and their families has remained unchanged. We hope it will continue to feel like a familiar home base.”

Today, Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo serves not only as an accommodation facility but also as a welcoming hub where colleagues, families, and local residents can gather and connect.



Featuring authentic marine grade lighting

Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo
Location: 4-7-28 Harumi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Telephone: 03-5560-2525 (Main)
Access
[Train] Approx. 10-minute walk from Exit A5 of Kachidoki Station on the Toei Oedo Line
[Toei Bus] Approx. 20 minutes from Tokyo Station Marunouchi South Exit (bound for Harumi Pier / Toei Bus 05-1); get off at *Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo*
[BRT Bus] Approx. 10 minutes from Shimbashi Bus Stop (bound for Michinoterrace Toyosu); get off at *Harumi Chu*



Luxurious Junior Suite



Meeting room Yui



Generous Japanese and Western breakfast buffet



House roasted coffee, a guest favorite

Captain Jima's Fun Pilot Diary

30 Photos Only I Can Take 201215-Nagoya Port

First, let me show you this first photo. I took it on December 15, 2020, while the *Asuka II* was moored at Nagoya's Garden Pier. I had just brought a medium-sized tanker (40,000 gross tons) from Cape Irago to the offshore anchorage at Nagoya, dropped anchor, and was heading back to Garden Pier on the pilot boat when I captured this moment. Just then, a bank of dull gray clouds drifted in, creating a striking contrast that made the ship's pure white silhouette stand out beautifully. Noticing me trying to photograph the *Asuka II*, a Pboat crewmember kindly said, "We'll hold her steady for a bit," and helped me get the shot.

The second photo was taken the morning before. When I woke up and looked out over Nagoya Port from the balcony of my 10th floor seaside apartment—as I always do—the *Asuka II* happened to be entering Garden Pier. I grabbed my 135mm telephoto lens, which I keep ready for moments like this, and photographed her (though I still wish I had a slightly longer lens...).

The third photo was also taken from my balcony, this time capturing a coastal car carrier entering port. These are the kinds of photos only I can take from where I live—and I allow myself a little pride in that.

Since retiring as an ocean-going ship captain and beginning my second career as a pilot in Nagoya, I've found myself think-



Asuka II photographed from offshore while docked at Garden Pier



Asuka II photographed from my home in Nagoya



Capt. Masujima



Domestic car carrier photographed from my home in Nagoya



Departing Nagoya in the morning glow — the circular object in the foreground is a repeater compass

ing about a few things.

Now that I have a bit more free time, my hobbies include: ① attending live pop and *chanson* performances, ② fishing, ③ skiing, ④ building paper model ships, ⑤ playing solo acoustic guitar, and ⑥ hosting the "Ocean Themed Movie Viewing Sessions at Rental Spaces," which I started back in January 2000. But I want to go beyond simply enjoying these activities for myself. I want to think carefully about things we can enjoy together—or things only I can offer—and approach them with a more objective mindset so I can put them into practice.

I live within sight of the sea and ships, and my work keeps me on the water. ⑦ I want to share stories about the sea and ships more widely—through blogs, Facebook, You-

Tube, publications, and other platforms. ⑧ And as someone who sailed through the region during the Iran–Iraq War and the Gulf War, boarding vessels that entered the Persian Gulf, I feel a responsibility to write about those frightening experiences... to share them with the world. I've spent nearly 10 years as a pilot thinking about these goals, yet I've only managed to accomplish about a third of what I hoped. Lately, that's been on my mind a lot.

(As of 2025, my pilot career has ended after 13 years, and I've now spent a year in a freer working life. I still enjoy hobbies ① through ⑥ at a comfortable pace. Thanks to everyone's support, I receive around half a dozen speaking invitations each year related to ⑦ and ⑧, giving me opportunities



to share my experiences. I plan to continue doing so in the years ahead.)

NUMBER PLACE EASY LEVEL

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8			6					3
4			8		3			1
7			2					6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
			8			7	9	

This Month's 'Number Place' Puzzle

How to Play

"Number Place" is a puzzle where you fill empty cells with the numbers 1 through 9, ensuring that no number repeats in any row, column, or 3×3 block. Use the given hints to fill every cell consistently and complete the puzzle.

February has arrived. The cold days continue, so this is a season when it takes a bit of courage to climb out of bed in the morning. The air outside is chilly, but on the bright side, the sky seems clearer and the sounds of the city feel quieter—something unique to this time of year.

Even on busy days, taking just a moment

to clear your mind and focus on one thing can surprisingly help settle your thoughts. Pause, reflect, and then take a small step forward. That simple rhythm may create a little breathing room for your heart as well. Number place puzzles, whether tackled first thing in the morning or during a break at work, can help sharpen your concentra-

tion and refresh your mind. Please enjoy this month's puzzle at your own pace. (The answers will be published in next month's issue.)

The answers to last month's (January issue) questions are below.

7	1	6	5	2	3	9	4	8
8	9	4	6	7	1	3	5	2
2	3	5	4	8	9	1	6	7
9	4	8	2	3	6	5	7	1
3	6	2	7	1	5	4	8	9
1	5	7	8	9	4	6	2	3
6	8	3	1	5	2	7	9	4
5	2	1	9	4	7	8	3	6
4	7	9	3	6	8	2	1	5

Use the Floor For This Easy Stretch! Stretch Your Hips with the 'Happy Baby' Pose

- (1) Lie on your back with your spine relaxed and resting comfortably on the floor.
- (2) Bend both knees and draw your thighs toward your abdomen.
- (3) Hold the outer edges of your feet (or your ankles) with both hands, keeping your knees wider than shoulder width apart.
- (4) Gently pull your knees toward your armpits while keeping your lower back pressed into the floor.
- (5) Breathe slowly and hold the pose for 30 seconds to 1 minute, staying within a comfortable range.

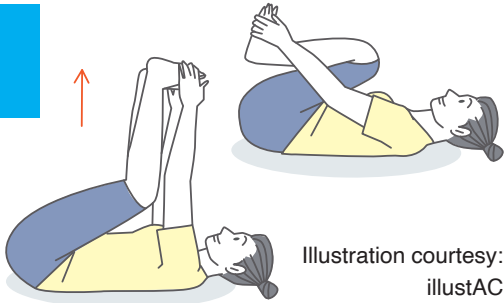


Illustration courtesy: illustAC

Today's Delicious Dish: Lotus Root 'Meatball' Soup

- Ingredients (4 servings)
200 g lotus root, Vinegar as needed
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons rice flour
Cooking oil for frying
6 cups dashi broth
3 tablespoons sake
1 tablespoon light soy sauce
1 teaspoon salt

Japanese parsley (*seri*) (finely chopped) to taste

■ How to cook

1. Peel the lotus root, soak it in lightly vinegared water, then grate it. Squeeze out the excess moisture, mix in salt, and add rice flour. Shape the mixture into four balls and deep-fry them in hot oil until golden.

2. Bring the dashi broth to a boil in a pot. Add sake, light soy sauce, and salt, and heat through.
3. Place the freshly fried balls from step 1 into bowls, pour the broth from step 2 over them, and garnish with *seri* before serving.



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries website (Recipe, perfectly matched for rice)
<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/seisan/kakou/me-zamasi/recipe/index.html>