

Abstracts

The New Health and Safety System for Seafarers

Shuji Hisamune (Kanagawa University)

Concerns are growing about the health and safety of seafarers exposed to high levels of risk while working on vessels. Their accident rate in 2018 was 11.69 per 1,000 workers, which is five times higher than that in industry. In order to mitigate risk for seafarers, the Work Improvement on Board (WIB) program has been developed by applying participatory action-oriented training (PAOT) methods that have proven effective for reducing work-related risk in small enterprises, construction sites, and agriculture. We analyzed which features of the WIB program would be most effective for facilitating the planning and implementation of practical improvements on vessels. We examined action-oriented tools used, including a WIB action checklist and good examples, and practical improvements proposed by participants in one-day or half-day WIB workshops. We compared the types of improvements achieved and the improvement costs in the WIB program with those in other PAOT programs, and discussed the impact of the WIB program on promoting primary prevention by seafarers and fishermen.

Toward Reform of Working Styles for Seafarers in Coastal Shipping: Characteristics and Issues of Seafarer Labor Legislation

Shinobu Nogawa (Meiji University)

Based on the basic characteristics of seafarer labor law, this paper describes what kind of work style reforms for seafarers should be made under the system and actual working styles, which are different from those of general workers covered by the Labor Standards Act. The purpose is to examine the content and direction of the work and clarify the issues. A legal system different from that for any other private workers has been established for seafarers, and administrative jurisdiction has been comprehensively entrusted to the maritime department of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Under these conditions, how work style reform implemented for general workers should be rationally implemented for seafarers is an important issue. Therefore, in this paper, I examined the specific content of the work style reforms currently underway for seafarers and clarified their significance. First, I examined the revision of working hours regulations, which is proposed as an improvement in the working environment for seafarers. Second, I analyzed the significance of various systems for ensuring the health of seafarers who are often exposed to dangerous labor. Third, I also considered measures to ensure the realization of work style reform for seafarers. Finally, the issues identified in this study were extracted, and prospects for a future seafarer system are shown.