Briefing by IMO to TRANSSC 35

From Mr Bingbing Song

As the committee may recall, IMO raised the issue regarding the TI and CSI limits during the last session.

Mr chairman, IMO welcome the decision from transsc 34, to take on board the clarification of CSI and TI limits. In this context, IMO's sub-committee on carriage of cargoes and containers (CCC sub-committee, held in September this year in London) requested the IMO secretariat to follow the discussion in IAEA, and with the final decision of transsc, IMO will take further actions accordingly.

In this context, I have attended the working group on criticality during the first two days this week. Firstly, IMO would like to express its appreciation to all experts attended the working group. We observed the discussion on the CSI and TI limits, and we understand that seems like we targeted one complex issue, but not with intention.

We noted that there are several fundamental issues need to be addressed, for example, the technical basis for the existing TI and CSI limits, the "no limits" for the large freight containers for the total vessel.

Mr chairman, when we look it into details, the TI and CSI limits for large freight containers for per hold, compartment or defined deck area was clearly limited, i.e. 200, that means the TI and CSI limits for the total vessel, will be limited by the number of holds, compartments or defined deck areas. Therefore, we are not sure if "no limits" is appropriate and we seek advise on the technical basis for this from your committee.

Nevertheless, IMO is happy to see the progress made on the review and clarification for CSI and TI limits. And we believe, a clearly defended and decided CSI and TI limit with clear technical basis, will provide more confidence to the ship operators and to reduce the possible denial of transport of radioactive material by maritime transport.

Thank you Mr chairman.