

Dr. Shinichiro Otsubo

Dr. Shinichiro Otsubo is a Distinguished Project Research Fellow of JTTRI (Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute) since 2021, and Specially Appointed Professor of the Institute of Ocean Research and Development, Tokai University, since 2022, after he retired from being the Director-General of Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan. During his tenure as DG and Deputy DG of Maritime Bureau, he was responsible for the maritime industry development, safety, and environment protection.

He holds Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from University of Tokyo, Master's Degree in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering from University of Tokyo and Master's Degree in Public Policy from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

He worked for the OECD as the secretariat to Council Working Party on Shipbuilding (WP6), conducted analytical work on supply and demand of global shipbuilding market from 1994 to 1998. He acted as the vice-chairman of WP6 for several years. He also participated in MEPC (Marine Environment Protection Committee) of the IMO (International Maritime Organization) for many years; in particular, as the Head of Japanese delegation to the MEPC from 2008 to 2011, he led the discussion on a variety of MEPC issues including ship recycling, Green House Gases, air pollution and ballast water management. As the Director for Ship Industry Division, and later as Deputy DG and DG of the Maritime Bureau, he endeavored to strengthen the maritime cluster, through the collaboration of shipping, shipbuilding and ship machinery/equipment sectors and the acceleration of technological innovation including autonomous navigation and GHG reduction.

Based on his long-time experiences in shipbuilding industrial policy, he has also been active as Vice-Chairman of the SAJ (Shipbuilders' Association of Japan) since 2024.

