Tokyo, 7 April 2014

Celebrating 100 Million Gross Tons in the RMI Registry

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry surpassed 100 million gross tons (gt) in the first quarter of 2014. International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), who provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Registry, has been perfecting the decentralization of RMI Registry related services. IRI’s President, Bill Gallagher, Head of Asia, Annie Ng, and Worldwide Business Operations Officer, Theo Xenakoudis will join Masaharu Okamoto, Chief Representative this week in Imabari and Tokyo to celebrate reaching this milestone. Prior to the celebrations, seminars on Ballast Water Management Treatment Systems (BWMTS) will be held in both cities with speakers from Japan Marine United Corporation (JMU), Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK) and the maritime office of the Japanese Government.

“The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM 2004) is of concern to the Registry’s owners and operators,” said Bill Gallagher. “While our ability to provide timely services to clients, anywhere in the world, is the Registry’s key competitive advantage, it is also important for us to work closely with owners and operators so they have the information needed to ensure their vessels are compliant with upcoming regulations; providing topical seminars in key locations is one way to do this,” he continued. “More than 180 delegates are expected in Tokyo on 7 April and 120 are expected in Imabari on 8 April for the seminars and 100 million gt celebrations,” said Masaharu Okamoto.

The RMI Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) will also present a letter to ClassNK and has already submitted a statement to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which grants an exemption under regulation 4(b) of Chapter 1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and approves an equivalent arrangement under the provisions of regulation 5 of Chapter 12 of SOLAS. Effectively, ClassNK is now able to issue an Administrator approved Statement of Compliance in accordance with the provision of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code Section 7, part 7.3.2.2 recognizing ClassNK’s novel design for the carriage of nickel ore cargoes exceeding Transportable Moisture Limits.

“Owners and operators in Japan are proactive when it comes to an early response to Conventions coming into force and expect responsiveness from their flag State,” said Masaharu Okamoto. “The RMI Registry’s recognition of ClassNK’s novel design is in furtherance of the safety of the world’s newbuild bulker fleet and its ability to safely carry this type of cargo,” continued Mr. Okamoto.

“Japanese owners are the sixth largest shipowning group in the RMI Registry in terms of gt and grew by 4% in just the first quarter of 2014,” said Annie Ng. “The RMI is committed to the strong relationship that has developed with Japanese owners over the past several years and will continue to ensure the Registry’s ability to meet the unique needs of this market,” concluded Ms. Ng.