



# OCEAN BREEZE



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No. 209 2024 Spring

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## "K" LINE Enters into Charter Contracts with Northern Lights for Third Liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> Vessels

Carbon Solution Business Group

Northern Lights JV DA and "K" LINE signed Bare Boat Charter and Time Charter contracts for the management of the third CO<sub>2</sub> ship. This follows the formerly signed contracts for managing the first two 7,500 m<sup>3</sup> liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> ships\*<sup>1</sup>, in Northern Lights' four ship fleet, that will be delivered in 2024.

The London-based subsidiary "K" LINE LNG Shipping (UK) Ltd., will manage the three ships, facilitating the transportation of liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> from Northern Lights customers based in Norway, Denmark, and Netherlands, to Northern Lights' CO<sub>2</sub> receiving terminal in Øygdalen, Norway, from where the CO<sub>2</sub> will be injected into the offshore reservoir for safe and permanent storage.

In December 2022, "K" LINE was awarded the ship management contracts of the two first Northern Lights ships, which are currently 75% completed and will be delivered later this year.

"K" LINE LNG Shipping (UK) Ltd. is working on an operation manual and commissioning protocol and cooperating with relevant parties such as terminal operators and port authorities.

In parallel, a crew training program is being implemented to ensure safe and reliable operation. Northern Lights is developing a ship-based CO<sub>2</sub> transport solution that enables flexible access to industrial emitters and carbon capture points across Europe. In December 2023, Northern Lights placed the order of a fourth CO<sub>2</sub> ship, sister to the ones currently under construction at Dalian Shipbuilding Offshore Co., Ltd (DSOC). With these four ships, Northern Lights will have the world's largest dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> shipping fleet.

### [The signing ceremony]



From left:  
Northern Lights JV DA: Børre Jacobsen (Managing Director)  
"K" LINE: Satoshi Kanamori (Managing Executive Officer)

**Comment of Mr. Børre Jacobsen, Managing Director of Northern Lights**

We are pleased to expand our partnership with "K" LINE, a ship operator with extensive experience in liquefied gas transport and a strong safety and environmental track record. These ships will be shuttling between our customers in Northwest Europe and the Northern Lights' onshore facilities, each transporting over 400,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

Our investment in these custom-built ships reflects our commitment to deliver safe, reliable, and sustainable CO<sub>2</sub> transport services. The recent contracts to build and operate the third and fourth ships signify an increase in Northern Lights' shipping capacity and reinforce our pioneering role in CO<sub>2</sub> transport.

**Comment of Yukikazu Myochin, President and CEO of "K" LINE**

We are delighted to successively undertake ship management for the third Northern Lights vessel. We have already set up a dedicated team for CO<sub>2</sub> ship management in "K" LINE LNG Shipping (UK) Ltd. in London for the first and second vessels and believe that the preparation for prior vessels will be further accumulated with the additional vessel in the fleet. Having the experience of building up the team and operational procedure, we are determined to contribute to the world's first CCS project by Northern Lights.

**[Northern Lights Liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> vessel]**

(Provided by Northern Lights JV DA.)

**\*1 About Northern Lights**

Northern Lights delivers CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage as a service, enabling mitigation of industrial emissions that cannot be avoided and accelerating the decarbonisation of European industry. The company will transport liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> from capture sites to an onshore receiving terminal in western Norway, before transporting it by pipeline for permanent storage in a reservoir 2,600 meters under the seabed. On schedule to be ready to receive CO<sub>2</sub> in 2024, Northern Lights offers safe and reliable CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage services to industrial emitters in Norway and across Europe. Northern Lights JV DA is a registered, incorporated General Partnership with Shared Liability (DA) owned by Equinor, TotalEnergies and Shell.

[www.norlights.com](http://www.norlights.com)

**\*2 December 19, 2022: "K" LINE enters into long-term contracts with Northern Lights for two liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> vessels ~World's first full scale CCS project~**

<https://www.kLine.co.jp/en/news/carbon-neutral/carbon-neutral-20221219.html>

## "K" LINE Safety Campaign 2023 – 2024

Safety and Quality Management Group

"K" LINE launched our annual safety campaign during this winter season. In this campaign, we have been focusing on the themes, the importance of fire prevention and early response to fires and injury prevention, by sharing information both at sea and onshore with the aim of further promoting and enhancing safety awareness. As of today, approximately 190 vessels and around 3,300 participants have taken part in this campaign (including approximately 350 onshore staff).

As COVID-19 measures have been lifted, we have actively visited ships to have face-to-face meetings on board, and also had online conferences with ships' crews.

By exchanging information with ship captains and crews who are continuing to operate safely and protect the environment on the front lines, each of us was able to reconfirm the importance of our mission for our common goal, ensuring safe operations.

This campaign has been proceeded smoothly thanks to helps from our charterers and ship management companies.

Safe navigation is an immutable mission in the maritime industry which sustains the society. "K" LINE will continue to strengthen our competitiveness and enhance corporate value with ensuring supremely safe navigation and transport quality management leveraged by the competent human resources and the technologies complementing the human factors.

### [Face-to-Face Meeting]



[Online Conference]



## Holding FY2023 Dry Bulk Global Meeting

Drybulk Planning Group

"K" LINE held a global meeting for the dry bulk business at the company's head office over a two-day period from November 14 to 15, last year. The meeting gathered not only the members of the dry bulk team at the head office but also 25 national and representatives from 10 major overseas offices, with about 100 people engaging in lively discussions in either sales or operation sessions.

At the meeting, Atsuo Asano, Representative Director, Vice President Executive Officer (responsible for Dry Bulk Carriers Unit) (Current Director) explained the shared significance of global KPIs (key performance indicators) based on a project for further advancement of business management for maximizing corporate value. He also spoke about measures to boost ROIC, which is an indicator for "earning power," which emphasized the importance of everyone working in unison to achieve further growth.

On the theme of Current status of KPI progress, the KPIs identified at the start of year, such as safety/efficiency in navigation, profitability, low-carbon/decarbonization efforts for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction, were analyzed and reflected on during the operation sessions, with frank discussions taking place about increasing safety and profitability in navigation and cargo operations as well as environment and DX challenges.

On the theme of "Expand Our Business, Empower Our Success!" topics like analysis and measures for company growth and expanding the revenue base in the future as well as organizational and environmental sales with technical and environmental teams were discussed in the sales sessions, also including debates about identifying sources of added value and ways to enhance "K" LINE's strengths through the concerted efforts of the Tokyo head office and overseas locations.

Going forward, "K" LINE will regularly hold global meetings and share KPIs globally, thereby improving customer-oriented service quality while also creating a sense of unity among our employees and strengthening teamwork. Our dry bulk business will realize sustainable profitability growth while at the same time further developing its business network on a foundation of global diversity and adding environmental reaction to the advanced transportation knowhow accumulated over many years.

### [Global meeting]



## Asia Damage Prevention Meeting Held for Car Carrier Business

K Line (Thailand) Ltd.

"K" LINE held Asia Damage Prevention Meeting from December 7th to 8th, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand with the aim of improving transportation quality in the Southeast Asia region. The conference was attended by representatives of "K" LINE and cargo-handling companies in Southeast Asia for discussion about how to improve quality services in marine transportation and cargo handling operations, around 40 people from seven countries.



Asia Damage Prevention Meeting

The catchphrase of this conference is "Strict compliance of K Line SAFETY OPERATION PROCEDURE (SOP) is the guide to "ZERO DAMAGE" and the participants discussed how to improve quality services in the safe operation of car carriers. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the further penetration of "K" LINE SOPs, sharing about new ideas of cargo handling equipment, operation procedures, and handling of next-generation cargo such as electric vehicles (BEVs). From each port participant, we received presentations on the local organizational structure and education methods that are grounded in the characteristics of each region. We discussed specific improvement measures for reviewing management methods and educational activities in line with our company's procedures, as well as reducing accident risks through equipment introduction. We confirmed our goal of eradicating accidents caused by non-compliance with standard operating procedures (Safety Operation Procedure) in the next fiscal year. We also launched the K Learning system, a new education system for workers that we have started to introduce in worker training at each port. In addition, to encourage quality activities, we presented awards to the representatives of "K" LINE and cargo handling companies in Southeast Asia that made exceptionally good efforts to achieve the best cargo handling quality in 2023. After the meeting, a social gathering was held with the participation of all staff members from K Line Thailand's car carrier division. This provided an opportunity to feel the sense of accomplishment in further strengthening the teamwork among stakeholders responsible for our transportation quality in Southeast Asia services.

We will always continue strive to improve "K" LINE global RORO service quality as we strengthen relationships with each Southeast Asian port through the regular Asia Damage Prevention meetings.



## 2023 LNG Group and Carbon-Neutral Promotion Group Global Meetings Held

LNG Group / Carbon Solution Business Group

"K" LINE held two global meetings at its head office, one for the LNG Group on December 11, 2023 and the other for the Carbon-Neutral Promotion Group (current Carbon Solution Business Group) on December 12, 2023. The meetings were attended by 14 national staff and representatives from 4 overseas offices, as well as top-level managers from the head office, who engaged in lively discussions.

The LNG Group meeting featured the positioning and role of the Group in the Medium-term Management Plan and the sharing of the Group's targets and the progress on them, followed by presentations by each location on current issues and future initiatives. The Group also discussed the marketing strategies to be implemented in each area from the perspective of future action plans. The Group will improve its competitiveness by continuously strengthening its integrated customer-oriented support at sea and on land in sales and ship management, while also continuing to seek to increase its market share by collaborating with locations, going forward.

The Carbon-Neutral Promotion Group meeting spotlighted liquified CO<sub>2</sub> transportation recognizing it will take an important role in the carbon neutrality of society, and participants from various location around the world exchanged opinions about business strategies. By gathering "K" LINE's expertise through the existing liquified gas transportation, we aim to contribute to the development of carbon capture storage projects through for the sustainable society and improve our corporate value.

In addition, a common session was held, where the Corporate Planning Group provided an explanation of the Company's investment criteria and stance on investing, and also held a question-and-answer session. Participants were able to engage in cross-departmental discussion.

Going forward, "K" LINE will continue to regularly hold global meetings to share sector goals from a global perspective and, through these meetings, it will energize each location's activities and deepen collaboration between locations to strengthen competitiveness, while also seeking to improve its customer-oriented services. "K" LINE will work to provide high-quality transportation services during the transition period while the energy mix is changing, thereby contributing to low-carbon and carbon-free initiatives for both ourselves and society as a whole.

### [The Global Meetings]



## Corporate Exhibition at the Japanese Emperor's Birthday Reception in Dubai

The Middle East office ran a corporate booth again this year for the Japanese Emperor's Birthday Reception on February 14, hosted by the Consulate-General of Japan in Dubai. This year, Mr. Sasaki, the head of the Carbon-Neutral Promotion Group (currently the Carbon Solution Business Group), also traveled to Dubai to offer his support.

The Seawing was featured at last year's exhibit, and this year, we partnered with Kawasaki Heavy Industries, with the Consul General also speaking about hydrogen and other initiatives for carbon neutrality in Japan. On the exhibit panel, Kawasaki Heavy Industries presented its liquefied hydrogen carrier, and we introduced our liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> carrier, "Northern Lights." This comprehensively showcased initiatives towards carbon neutrality by Japanese companies in the marine industry.

A reception was held for around three hours starting at 6:30 pm. According to the Consulate General, around 340 people were in attendance, including Dubai government officials, foreign diplomats, and officials from companies with deep ties to Japan and the UAE.

As he was visiting the area on business, astronaut Koichi Wakata also attended as a special guest, which brought excitement to the event.

We felt a little out of place again this year as we looked around and saw sushi made from fresh fish, crown melon, summer oranges, Hokkaido scallops, and other foods provided by regional governments; famous confectioneries and other food companies; and companies producing air purifiers and other lifestyle products. We were a bit concerned that people would not be interested in carbon neutrality, but thanks to the efforts of Mr. Sasaki, many people were curious and stopped by. We were able to explain our initiatives, and this was well received by visitors, remarking they were impressed and hadn't heard of our initiatives. We explained our initiatives to many ambassadors and Consuls General, including those from Thailand, Mozambique, and Bangladesh, and some expressed a strong interest in sharing our initiatives with their home countries.

We handed out red "K" LINE bags with informational materials and a desktop calendar inside. As the reception was coming to a close, the red bags became noticeable in the venue, which we think increased the appeal.

Consul General Imanishi remarked that the event was a chance to convey the allure of Japan and its products to many participants and that he would continue to promote the initiatives of Japanese companies among government officials in Dubai and other northern emirates.

We also would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sasaki, who traveled all the way to Dubai, and to everyone who helped create the exhibit panel and informational materials for this exhibit.

Middle East Chief Representative (in Dubai)



Our exhibit booth. Mr. Sasaki, with a representative from Kawasaki Heavy Industries Middle East FZE



Corporate logo



Together with Mr. Ibrahim Sharaf, Chairman of the Sharaf Group



## Year End Party 2023!

Keihin Area Friendship Event Planning Committee

Our traditional winter Year End Party (YEP) was held at BAUHAUS Roppongi on December 19. This was the first time we could hold the event since 2019, as it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 121 participants joined together for this year's event. BAUHAUS Roppongi, the venue for our event, overcame the difficult business circumstances of the pandemic by relocating to a greatly improved location, renovating the interior and improving performance. The entire planning committee put a lot of effort into the preparations to make this a memorable event at such an incredible venue.

This year's part began with a toast from Mr. Muramatsu, head of the Human Resources Planning Team. Immediately after the toast, the curtain rose on the opening act of President & CEO Yukikazu Myochin on bass guitar! His performance of Bon Jovi's Livin' On A Prayer with support from BAUHAUS staff and volunteers from the Music Club quickly became quite animated, and the venue was enveloped in a momentary fever.

Next up was the annual YEP team competition, where employees in their first year formed teams and brought ideas to compete. Almost 40 first-year employees competed in the tournament-style competition by forming six teams full of character. The teams combined their individual strengths and competed with their eye on the prize. The final round was the Panty Stocking SUMO. The venue erupted in excitement with the performance that could have been worthy of an age-old variety show! I would guess that everyone in attendance has the faces of all the new employees burned into their brains after the competition!



The competition was followed by a time of mingling. During this time, two volunteers from the General Affairs Group (Miyaji, viola; and Fukunaga, keyboard) performed an instrumental version of John Lennon's Imagin, and the venue took on an emotional mood thanks to their artistic performance.

We also held the One Chorus Singing Competition, a new event for the YEP! With this new competition, the audience decided which of the volunteer karaoke competitors was the most impressive. It was a fierce battle of equal talents, with each of the four participants offering high-quality performances, both in terms of singing ability and costumes and imitation. After a close competition, Masanori Nishino from the Drybulk Planning Group was chosen as MVP by BAUHAUS staff for his performance of Queen's I Was Born to Love You. The overall winner with the most votes was Yuya Mibori from the Coal & Iron Ore Carrier Business Group for his performance of Akiko Wada's Ano Kane wo Narasu noha Anata!

This was followed by the annual "K" LINE Music Club live performance! I also brazenly took part in this as a performer. The excitement of the venue was amazing, both from the stage and the audience, and being the first live performance in several years, it was an incredible and memorable time for me personally.

As the excitement of the performance lingered, we moved on to the raffle event for fancy prizes. There were shouts of joy each and every time a winner was announced.

Finally, we heard closing remarks from Hiroo Yamamoto, Chairman of the Trade Union's Central Executive Committee, and the Year End Party of 2023 came to a close without a hitch.

For me personally, I remember being impressed when I first participated in the YEP with how amazing this company was for holding a year-end party with all employees by renting out one of the best live music clubs in Roppongi. As this was the first time for the event in several years, I was put in the position of managing the party for the year, and we were able to sense the openness of our company once again. I am already excited about the party next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and everyone involved for the successful resumption of this wonderful event.

Thank you very much.



## Welcome All New Employees!

### A message of encouragement to all new employees from your senior colleagues!

We've received messages of encouragement for the new employees from the still fresh senior colleagues who have worked three years or less.

#### **How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

One thing that was different from how I imagined things when I joined was how much discretion you have. Initially, I thought that my first year would consist of doing whatever my supervisors instructed me to do. But when I actually started working, I found that I could decide the direction of most work, although I would get some advice. Compared to when I just joined, I feel that I have become better at imagining what information is needed to get my bosses onboard with my ideas.

#### **My current work tasks**

The team I belong to manages the navigation of bulkers. Bulkers carry diverse cargo such as coal, salt and grain, calling at various ports across the world. My work tasks include checking cargo loading plans in communication with captains, port agents, and other relevant persons, arranging refueling and material supplies, and otherwise managing things so that the ships can navigate safely and smoothly.

#### **Work mistakes I've made**

This is not a specific mistake, but several times I've inconvenienced other people by finishing work with a deadline, like arranging refueling, at the last moment, so I've keenly felt the importance of doing things with time to spare. I think there are many situations where you can finish last-minute work by putting in some extra effort yourself, like when doing assignments as a student, but when working, I think it's important to always act with an awareness that there are many other people involved.

#### **Message to the new employees**

It's only natural that the first year is full of things you don't know. I'm certain your senior colleagues will help you out if asked and nobody will blame you if you make a mistake as long as you do your best. I think the first year is the best opportunity to absorb many things, so keep asking your senior colleagues when there's something you don't understand. I look forward to working together with you.

Ms. Tsukino Takekoshi  
Operation Team, Bulk Carrier Group



**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

- Exceptionally good openness.

I frequently heard from senior colleagues that the atmosphere is very open in the company when I first joined, and it was more open than I had imagined. Please take note of this when you're working.

- Great camaraderie.

I feel the closeness among workmates in the company is much better than I had envisioned as a university student. It's simply amazing when you hold a get-together and almost 30 people show up.

**My current work tasks**

I'm in charge of Indian projects in the LNG Group. I'm like a shareholder investing in projects, giving my opinion on and making decisions about our ships that are part of those projects. I rarely see any ships, but when they come to Japan on rare occasions, I sometimes take a look as a shareholder.

**Work mistakes I've made**

This is pretty embarrassing, but rather than making one big mistake, I make loads of small mistakes on a daily basis. Since joining the company, I've constantly been making mistakes as I've drowned in large volumes of emails and seas of English, mistaking contents and figures I report to my bosses and failing at communication because my English is inadequate. I really feel the importance of studying every day.

**Message to the new employees**

I think that if you were a student until just a few days ago, it won't feel real if you're suddenly told "You're a working adult from today. Make sure to live responsibly," so you'll likely have a period of struggling and not knowing right from left. If that happens, do speak to your senior colleagues. I think there are many in the company who'll struggle together with you. I am looking forward to seeing you achieve great things!



Mr. Rion Daisaka  
LNG Team No. 3, LNG Group

**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

I was surprised that this company has such a big trust in young employees. For example, if you have a suggestion to improve work productivity, there is an environment that lets young employees speak up and that listens to them. Moreover, everyone has energetic & cheerful atmosphere regardless of their ages, which makes it easier to communicate with them.

**My current work tasks**

Since joining, I have been in charge of Australian Trade operations in Car Carrier Division. My daily tasks include a broad range of work, such as checking weather and routes for our ships, coordinating cargo loading/discharging schedules with agencies, and arranging bunkering. From January, I will oversee Persian Gulf Trades, thus I am currently trying my best to learn the uniqueness of the trade.

**Work mistakes I've made**

I once made some mistakes in a voyage instruction, which confused vessel captains and local agents. This experience made me realize that an extremely large number of people work according to my instruction, including ship crew, port workers, and people arranging customs clearance documents. Since then, I am working with stronger sense of responsibility.

**Message to the new employees**

Sometimes it might feel difficult to keep up to new tasks or to those around you, especially when you only have limited knowledge. But the best thing you can do as a new employee is to ask many questions! (I've also been helped by kind senior colleagues many times.) Whenever you feel your head is all full, try taking a breather at K-CAFÉ. I look forward to working together with you all.



Ms. Nonoka Kawakami  
Operation Team, Car Carrier Planning & Development Group

**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

Initially, I had the impression that the company was filled with generous employees. However, after joining, I've come to realize that many people, for better or worse, aren't shy about voicing their own opinions. It is precisely because of such an environment that I feel able to clearly express my own views to my seniors/supervisors, and I appreciate the openness of communication here.

**My current work tasks**

Until March of the fiscal year 2023, I oversaw security and infrastructure for the "K" LINE Group. As it's quite removed from the shipping business, I'll omit the specifics, but my duties included determining project scopes with IT vendors and coordinating with relevant parties. Following a transfer in April, I am scheduled to take on comprehensive business application strategy and the promotion of data utilization.

**Work mistakes I've made**

I once ordered IT equipment without thoroughly checking the model numbers. I didn't realize until after opening the package that the accessories I had purchased for the tablet devices were not compatible with the models. Unfortunately, I was unable to return them. It was a reminder of the obvious yet crucial importance of verifying details beforehand.

**Message to the new employees**

I imagine you've joined the company with a mix of expectations and anxieties. Life at the company isn't always fun; there are tough times too. Initially, you may feel overwhelmed by all the things you don't know, and that can be unsettling. But don't worry, everything will work out. I'm looking forward to the days ahead working with all of you.



Mr. Yuto Hashi  
Integrated Application Strategy Team, Digitalization Strategy Group

**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

I had the pleasure to join this company that has a history of supporting Japan's development in the background as I was attracted by the prospect of being entrusted with many responsibilities as a young employee. Having worked two years, if asked "Moeka, do you feel big gap between images you once had and real situations you're in now?", I'm confidently saying NO. I really love this energetic ethos of working hard and playing hard.

**My current work tasks**

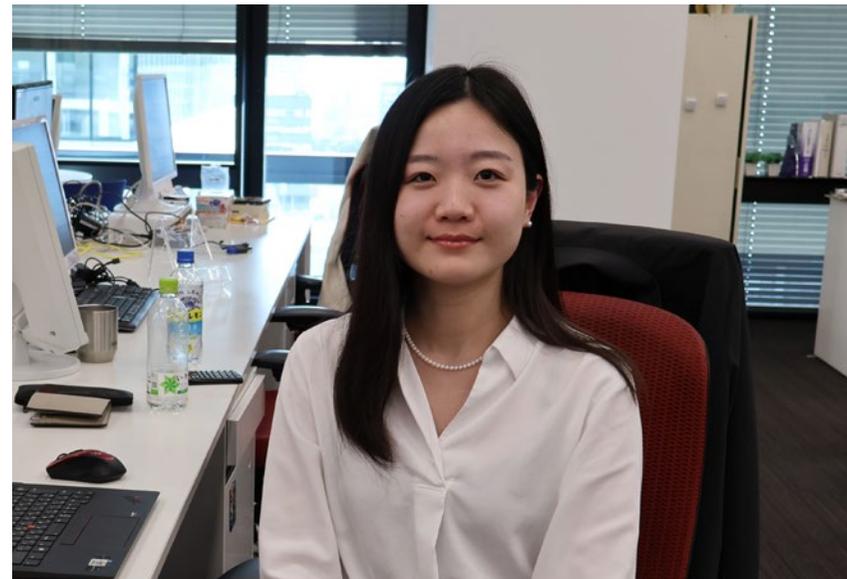
I belong to a team that handles "K" LINE's quarterly financial accounts. At present, I'm mainly in charge of ensuring and managing that the daily business activities of the car carrier groups, their profits and expenses, are properly reflected in the account books. I feel I learn new things every day as I sometimes have to give explanations to top bosses, external accountants, and tax inspectors by myself.

**Work mistakes I've made**

I have made countless mistakes, but the one that I remember the most vividly is from my settlement of accounts at the end of a fiscal year. I found a part that needed to be revised when we were almost done and was only able to finish it by working two nights while cold sweating like a waterfall. Since then, I make sure to do my best every day, with a feeling of tension that it's all over the day I stop being frustrated by my own shortcomings.

**Message to the new employees**

I'm not in a position to instruct others, but... I think people who can do commonplace things as a matter of course and who value the accumulation of small efforts are fantastic people. I was at loss many times during my first year, but I had moments of dots connecting as I steadily kept working, becoming able to do more things really little by little. Let us work together and do our best!



Ms. Moeka Shimada  
Corporate Accounting Team, Accounting Group

**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

I feel that the distance between boss and employee is close. This is something I heard from recruitment staff many times before joining, but there are many who are easy to approach and the environment is easy to work in most of the time. So much so that some bosses will hold study meetings if you ask them.

**My current work tasks**

As a third officer, I've been aboard LNG carriers, LPG carriers and bulkers. I've also experienced various routes, from Asia to Australia, the United States, Europe, and Brazil! I'm in charge of fire extinguishing and lifesaving equipments, which are among the most important equipment on the ship. Recently, I've been doing receival work for a newly built ship as an outfitting worker.

**Work mistakes I've made**

With the first ship I was on, I didn't know anything about my job, made mistakes all the time, and kept getting reprimanded and scolded, so it was tough. If there's something you don't understand about your work in the beginning, ask and talk to your superiors! Also, talk to the merry Filipino crew in your day to day life! Train yourself with weight training! Just remember that having fun aboard is what matters most!

**Message to the new employees**

This is a marine transportation company, so our ships are working somewhere in the world at all hours. I think you should be proud since this is work that's on the world stage! When you're on a ship, you learn things every day. In particular, this is vital if you want to get an advanced license or position. Just make sure, you don't overexert yourself. (^\_^)

Let's meet on the seas!



Mr. Shuhei Takegawa  
Third Officer

**How my image of the company has changed since I joined**

I think this company has many broad-minded bosses. Not only do they guide you mostly with kindness and occasionally with sternness, but they often put you in charge of things, so I think there's an environment that lets you engage with work fully and with a sense of responsibility.

**My current work tasks**

As a third engineer, I've been on tankers and containerships. I'm mainly in charge of auxiliary machinery and electric equipment, working to ensure safety in navigation and cargo operations for the ships and pleasant living spaces for the crews. Also, when I'm on duty, I'm the person in charge of not only equipment but also plant operations. It's hard work since the scope of tasks is wide, but it's exceedingly rewarding.

**Work mistakes I've made**

One mistake I made was taking everything upon myself and having a breakdown when there was a lot of problems with the equipment I was in charge of. Back then, I thought that I have to handle it by myself since I'm in charge, but I learned the importance of asking for help from those around me before I have a breakdown. Thank you so much to everyone who helped me back then!

**Message to the new employees**

I'm sure all new employees and especially the offshore staff are very nervous and worried about your first trip, but let's work proactively and accumulate knowledge and experience! If there's anything you don't understand, it's important to keep at it and look it up too, but I also think you need the courage to ask your senior colleagues for advice. Fellow young employees, let's brighten up "K" LINE!



Mr. Hiroaki Kadomatsu  
Third Engineer

Author to the left

## The Community Where I Live ~ London~

Contributed by Mr. Takuya Iwami, "K" LINE LNG Shipping (UK) Limited

Let me talk about my life in London, England.

I have lived in London for the approximately two and a half years since I was transferred in August 2021. However, the information I am sharing here is what I heard from my wife and children because I am too lazy to go out.

### [Food in London]

When you think of British food, many of you may think of fish and chips, a junk food that consists of two fried foods (So did I). There are other well-known British foods. They serve a Sunday roast at pubs on Sundays and there is coronation chicken. Did you know that? (Actually, I did not know anything about coronation chicken until my wife told me about it recently.)

#### ● Sunday Roast

They roast meat and vegetables in an oven slowly on Sunday. This British dish is served together with a generous amount of gravy.

The roast can be pork, lamb, chicken, turkey or beef. It is quite nice for British food (It is often said that British food is tasteless?). You can enjoy it at pubs and other places.



Sunday roast



Sunday roast

#### ● Coronation Chicken

The dish was created at the time of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. It has become a traditional British food now.

The coronation lunch is chicken seasoned with a curry-flavored cream sauce, garnished with raisins and apricots that are likened to gems. It is said that it goes with bread (I haven't tried it yet though).

There are many restaurants that offer diverse cuisines from different countries and ethnicities, such as Singapore, Greece, Vietnam, the Uyghurs and Brazil, in addition to traditional British dishes. You can discover something new here in London.

## **[Entertainment]**

It has been a year and a few months since my family came to England. I would like to share some events that my children enjoyed.

### **• A Sleepover at the Museums**

In London, at many museums and art museums, admission is free. While they are usually open during the day, they hold sleepovers sometimes. You can spend a night there for a fee.

It is rare to experience events like these in Japan. My family went to the sleepovers at the National Museum of Science and Industry and the Natural History Museum (While I relaxed alone at home). Here I outline the museums and my children's happy memories that I heard from them when they came home.

## **[Science Museum]**

The museum in South Kensington, London showcases exhibits related to locomotive engine mechanisms, the history of automobiles and airplanes, old and new electric appliances, rockets, the secrets of the earth and space, the environment and other exhibits, following a chronological sequence from the Industrial Revolution. You can experience science in many different ways and learn about its history using your five senses.

This season's theme was sound. My children fully enjoyed the event which included science quizzes, an experiment show, and a problem-solving game played while walking around the museum.

## **[Natural History Museum]**

This museum is also in South Kensington, London. They display many stuffed animal specimens, plant specimens, mineral specimens, dinosaur fossils, realistic moving models, and other exhibits. There are lots of things that interest children. (A rare exhibit of theirs is stuffed narwhal specimen with two tusks. Although narwhal normally have one tusk, approximately one in 500 has two tusks. The Natural History Museum is the only place where a narwhal with two tusks is displayed.)

The theme of the event was dinosaurs. Participants listened to a lecture on dinosaurs, participated in a quiz game, made a t-shirt, explored a dinosaur booth in the dark and there were other surprises.

● **Easter**

As you might know, Easter or Pascha is a festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion and death (It is as important as Christmas for Christians).

In class at their local school, my children learned about Jesus Christ, telling me that Christ died on Friday (Good Friday) and was resurrected three days later or on Monday (Easter Monday).

In the run-up to this Easter, the whole town is filled with bunny items and egg-shaped chocolate from the start of the year. (I wondered why bunnies appear during Easter, so I looked up how they came to use the animal. Bunnies became a motif for Easter as a symbol of vitality and prosperity in Christianity because of their high fertility, and the eggs represent the birth of life.)

Around March, schools and churches have an Easter hunt in which adults hide chocolates with many different shapes, and children look for the chocolates. All children look forward to these events.



Easter bunnies

● **Christmas**

When summer is over, the entire town begins to prepare for Christmas.

They gradually start to prepare for decorating the streets with lights. The stores' windows display Christmas ornaments. Many stores begin handling Christmas trees. Real fir trees are available at supermarkets and home improvement stores, in addition to the artificial Christmas trees that are common in Japan.

We bought and decorated a real fir tree in our house. I felt that it was healing, thanks to the subtle scent of the fir tree and I suppose it is the effects of negative ions.

There are other events during the Christmas season, such as nativity plays at schools and Christmas caroling at churches. A nativity play is a play about the story of Jesus Christ's birth. One of my children was happy because they got to be a choir member holding a candle.

Christmas day, December 25, is a holiday for everyone and they spend the day with family. Almost all of the stores are closed in London, and trains and busses are stopped. (I didn't know this, so I was lonely and starving during my first Christmas in London, before my family came here. Remember this if you plan to come to London during Christmas.)



Christmas trees



Christmas lights

● **Winter Wonderland (Traveling Carnival)**

In winter, a traveling carnival called Winter Wonderland comes to the large park called Hyde Park (one of the eight Royal Parks in London). Hyde Park is in the area of Westminster and Kensington in Central London. The carnival is a typical sight in winter.

You may imagine that traveling carnivals are very simple. However, this carnival is a full-scale amusement park with rides for young children, a haunted house, a large roller coaster, other scary rides and more. There is a Christmas market within the traveling carnival in addition to the rides. Why don't you visit it if you come to London in the winter?



Winter Wonderland

● **New Year's Day Parade**

On January 1, the parade starts near the Green Park subway station and finishes at Westminster Station.

I have heard that over 10,000 people participate in the parade, and over 500,000 people watch the parade every year. Participants from London and from other countries such as America and Bolivia including cheerleading teams and marching bands parade to the end point in decorated trucks and classic cars.

With 500,000 people watching the parade, a huge number of people were on the street, and crowds of people lined the street by the end point near Westminster Station.

● **Church Events**

After my family joined me, we found and started to go to a church where they held a weekly English class. A British friend I met there told us about the church's Sunday morning service.

The Sunday morning service includes singing (songs about God and Jesus Christ) and handicrafts and other activities for children that my children can enjoy. Unfortunately, we haven't gone recently.



New Year's Day Parade

- **Musical**

Musicals are always considered an art representative of the culture that has originated in London.

We watched musicals including Back to the Future, Matilda and My Neighbor Totoro, although we have not seen musicals in Japan.

You can enjoy elaborate staging and gimmicks here in London, the home of musicals.

My children were extremely pleased with My Neighbor Totoro. The performance ended with a standing ovation. My children sang the Totoro song enthusiastically.

Please see a musical if you come to London.

- **Stonehenge**

Many of you may know Stonehenge.

It is a prehistoric site in England believed to have been built between 2500 and 2000 B.C.E. Stonehenge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is about two hours from London by bus or car. We took a bus tour to Stonehenge.

Some people may not be interested in ancient ruins.

I was one of those people. However, we went there on Christmas eve, December 24.

Stonehenge stands alone on a large piece of land, unobstructed by anything, amid grass which is green even in the winter.

Although I am a person that is not interested in ancient ruins, I was overwhelmed by the landscape. Each enormous stone has another large stone on top of it (Stonehenge is said to be one of the greatest power spots in Europe. I feel as if I gained some power from it. Is this just my imagination?).

My family tells me the city has many more charms. You must come to London.



Matilda the musical



Stonehenge

## An Arabian Story: Episode 6

Contributed by Mr. Goichi Tsuruta, Middle East Representative Office

It must be cherry blossom season in Japan now. This year, Ramadan will start in the middle of March and end in the middle in April, in accordance with the Islamic calendar. As Ramadan is ending, it will get hotter and hotter in Dubai, before Dubai's boiling hot summer. In the UAE, it rained a few times in January and February this year, even though it had not rained at all until several years ago. The roads in the cities flood every time it rains, resulting in traffic congestion. It was generally cold in the morning and at night (however, the low temperature was about 14°C, and the high was about 20°C during the day). When I drive from Dubai to Fujairah on Arabian Gulf to go fishing, I cross rocky mountains. Usually, the rocky mountains look brown. The other day, however, they looked light green. Looking closely, I saw lots of grass on the mountains that looked light green from far away. Climate change may be having different affects here. If plants grow naturally on the land, even if it takes a long time, I think it will be good for the area. Now, I would like to share some small bits of information about Dubai with you.



The Burj Khalifa is much taller than the other buildings



### Everyone You Meet Here Is a Foreigner

The population in the U.A.E. is about ten million people. As of 2022, the number of people from foreign countries living in the country is ten times the number of UAE citizens. The ratio of men to women is two to one. I guess this is because many men come here from other countries to work. Men are 80 to 90% of the Japanese expatriates working here, and many of them are not accompanied by family members. Even if you include their spouses and children, men are twice as numerous as women. Many tourists visit this country. I rarely meet (or even see) Emiratis in my everyday life.

Dubai was second in the list of the most visited cities in the world published in December 2023, following Paris. The other day, the country announced that they would build the world's second highest building and a seven-star hotel (needless to say, the world's highest building is the Burj Khalifa.) The city never stops developing.



Dubai Creek



Palm Jumeirah, a tourist place in Dubai, seen from an observation deck

## Gift from Heaven

Islam forbids gambling. In Indonesia where I stayed during my previous overseas assignment, there were no publicly available ways to gamble, such as lotteries. However, they have these games here in Dubai. There are some lotteries operated by duty-free shops that are not like the public lotteries in Japan. If you choose a number and win, you will get a prize or prize money. I read the following article in the newspaper the other day. A Dubai lottery made Ms. J from Saudi Arabia a millionaire even though she has never been to the UAE. She won a million dollars in a lottery operated by Dubai Duty Free. She does not think she is lucky but believes her winning is a gift from God, saying "God knows I always pray diligently." I understand that the prize is God's gift or blessing for daily acts of faith, not prize won in gambling. Though I might have already written about it before, the UAE is promoting a plan to build a casino. When I told an Emirati that they should not have casinos or anything like that, he said to me "It is not gambling. It is gaming." Although the casino will be built for tourists, they are too flexible. In other words, they reverse their way of thinking too quickly.



## Never-Ending Railway

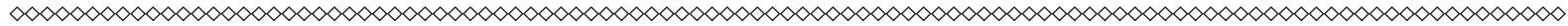
The only existing railways were two metro lines in Dubai, but last year Etihad Rail was completed as a cargo railway connecting the seven emirates of the UAE. Now freight trains are running, handling cargo including the cargo coming in and out of Abu Dhabi's ports. A newspaper article reported the following: Etihad Rail operated their first passenger train between Abu Dhabi and Al Danah in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi on January 25.... They have not announced the official commencement date of their passenger service. According to an announcement in 2022, the maximum speed of passenger trains will be 200 km/h, and their passenger capacity will be about 400 people. The passenger train network will connect 11 cities in the UAE.

It seems that they just operated a passenger train as a test run, and full-fledged operations will begin later. You may be able to travel between Abu Dhabi and Dubai using a high-speed railway system before long. However, we expatriates wonder who will use the train.

Most people have cars and are able to travel the 170 kilometers between Abu Dhabi and Dubai in less than two hours. There is no transportation infrastructure for moving from the stations to any other place, but we understand that eventually it will be for tourists who do not have cars. Buses are the only means of public transportation between Dubai and Abu Dhabi at the moment. The railway will be a useful service for tourists. If they call it a desert railway, they may attract many trainspotters from around the world.



(Photos are for illustrative purposes only)



## Runner: Automobile Edition

The speed limit on expressways is 100 km/h within the city of Dubai and 120 km/h outside the city when you are driving from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. When you enter Abu Dhabi, it is 140 km/h. When you leave Abu Dhabi and drive further southwards, it is 160 km/h. They have just set a minimum speed limit on certain parts of expressways in Abu Dhabi of 120 km/h. When you drive in the two left lanes of a four-lane expressway, you must drive between the minimum speed limit which is 120 km/h and the maximum speed limit of 140 km/h. Speed limit violations are penalized with a 400 dirham fine (about 16,000 yen). I have heard that the authorities overlook a ten percent deviation from the limit in Dubai while in Abu Dhabi you will be penalized for exceeding that speed limit even by one km/h. I have never heard of any "brave" Japanese expatriates attempting to confirm this.

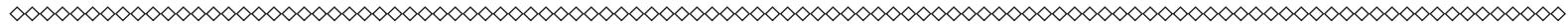
When you come to Dubai, you will find that almost all of the cars are clean and nicely polished and only a few are dirty. This is a marked contrast to the streets in Saudi Arabia where most cars are dirty because of the sand dust. I have wondered why this is for years. It is because the UAE bans driving a dirty car on the streets. If the authorities catch someone violating the rule, there is a 500 dirham fine (about 20,000 yen).

Dubai is absolutely an automobile society. It is full of vehicles on the streets and traffic congestion is increasing. In contrast, there were only 13 registered cars in 1968, about 55 years ago.

You may imagine that there are many skyscrapers in Dubai (see the photo). In 1993, about 30 years ago, the World Trade Centre was the only high-rise building.



Police car



## Runner: Athletic Edition

During the cold time of the year from November to February, the government and private companies organize many health enhancement programs and events. There are a number of running events that are held in the city almost weekly, such as Dubai Run (5 km/10 km) in which more than 100,000 participants run along a blocked expressway that crosses the center of the city in a north-south direction, the Dubai Marathon (full marathon/10 km) that runs through the upper-class residential area along the sea and the Dubai Creek Half Marathon (half marathon/10 km) that follows the canal-like creek. I try to run on a daily basis, keeping myself motivated. While inevitably I run at the gym in the summer, I participate in running events from September to April as a member of the Japanese running club that runs on the beach once every two weeks. This year, I participated in the Dubai Marathon (10 km) on January 8 and the Dubai Creek Half Marathon (half) on January 22. This was the first time I ran a half marathon (about 21 km). The race began at 6:15 a.m. when it was still dark. The temperature was a comfortable 18°C. It was pleasant to run along the creek. Participants ran through the tourist place called Old Dubai. It was very hard to go up and down the bridge four times. In spite of this, I managed to make it to the finish line.

When you visit UAE, you may participate in running events, whether or not you are a runner. It will be interesting. Tell me if you are interested in these events. I will be a guide for you.



Finished



Dubai Run participants (They look like they are walking rather than running.).

## Letter from the South American Andes, Part 13

Contributed by Mr. Homero Llanos, "K" Line Peru S.A.C.

Hello. I am Homero from "K" Line Peru. I'm going to be introducing the Amazon region in Peru to all of you.

If you want to have a unique and unforgettable time in the great outdoors surrounded by trees, beautiful rivers, small animals, lovely and unique local festival customs, traditional foods, and exotic drinks, then you will be fascinated by the earthly paradise known as Amazonas Peru. These are some of the most charming places in all of Peru.

The Amazonas region was discovered by Spaniard Francisco de Orellana on February 12, 1542, and was called the Amazonas due to it being home to the largest river in South America. There are several alluring and unforgettable places in the Amazonas region, an area visited by thousands of tourists. I recommend the following places in particular.

### **Kue Lap:**

Important pre-Incan ruins located in the northeastern part of the Andes in Peru. It was constructed during the time of the Chachapoyas culture. Located on a limestone ridge near the summit of Cerro Barreta, these ruins feature a large man-made altar that faces south to north. The ruins form a large-scale stone architectural complex with a monumental status drawing in visitors.

### **La Catarata Gocta (Gocta Cataracts):**

Breaking through the jungles of Peru, this waterfall is one of the largest waterfalls in the world, at over 700 meters tall. The grandeur of the waterfall and the beauty of the surrounding nature will leave you speechless, drawing in all who come to see the waterfall. You can also have a glimpse into the harmony of the ecosystems of the wild animal and plant life in the surrounding areas.

### **Rio Huaylla Belén (Huaylla Belen River):**

Whimsically winding its way through the expansive plains, this river is also known as the Silver Snake. With its expansive cloud forests, the surrounding areas are home to a diverse variety of bird species. When tourists look out upon the beautiful valley that bears the name of the river, they can see the richly colored river snaking through the bright green plains and glistening in the sun. The trails nearby are also full of incredible nature, with interesting archaeological sites located along the way.

The Peruvian Amazonas is waiting for you. Make sure to come and visit!



La Catarata Gocta

## Recommendations for Golf

Contributed by Mr. Kentaro Suda, Planning and Investment Management Team, Corporate Planning Group

My name is Kentaro Suda, and I am a part of the Planning and Investment Management Team of the Corporate Planning Group, having joined the company in 2023.

I love golf. I don't see golf as a sport with a goal of finishing 18 holes with the minimum number of strokes, which is the usual definition of golf.

I also consider the journey to the golf range and the time spent driving in my favorite car while listening to music I like and having light conversations with a wonderful friend to be part of golf. I do, of course, love the time spent focusing on playing in the great outdoors while forgetting the hustle and bustle of everyday life or the process of practicing hard through trial and error in preparation for a day of rounds.

I was focused on baseball, rugby, lacrosse, and various other sports as a student, but by applying the PDCA cycle, I was able to reach a best score of 92 in golf, improving faster and with more depth than any of the other sports I've played. My goal is to reach a score in the 80s during 2024. You may rightly think that golf has high initial costs with clubs, clothing, shoes, and more. But you can also expect a reliable, long-term return on that initial investment as you can play regardless of your age. Without a doubt, it makes sense as an investment (starting golf).

Consider trying out golf as a way to improve your overall well-being.

