

What is the Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council?

The history and current state of Onomichi's maritime industry

The history of Onomichi's shipbuilding industry began when a string of shipyards popped up in the former cities of Innoshima, Mukaishima, and Setoda before World War II. Amongst them was the Innoshima yard of Osaka Iron Works (now Hitachi Zosen), which began operations in Innoshima. After the war, shipbuilding companies began to expand in scale, particularly the three core companies of Hitachi Zosen, Onomichi Dockyard, and Naikai Zosen. While the withdrawal of Hitachi Zosen's Innoshima yard from the newbuilding category and other events that occurred during the shipbuilding slump that occurred between the 1970s and 1980s dealt the industry a severe blow, overcoming each dip in business only caused the yards to become stronger.

Now, Onomichi has shipbuilding company yards, including dedicated repair yards and shipyards that construct both oceangoing and domestic coastal ships, as well as multiple marine equipment manufacturers. There are also many shipyards around Onomichi, including in the neighboring cities of Fukuyama and Mihara, on the islands along the Shimanami Kaido, and in Imabari, which is across the bridge on the opposite shore. As a result, there are also many shipbuilding-related corporations in the vicinity, including manufacturers that fabricate hull blocks, and companies that deploy contracted workers to shipyards.

As for the shipping industry, both owners of domestic ships and owners of oceangoing vessels that started out with coastal ships have hubs and engage in business from Onomichi. Another feature is its privately operated crewmember training facility, Onomichi Marine Institute. As such, Onomichi has more than enough of the basic elements of a maritime cluster, including shipbuilding, marine equipment, and shipping industries.

The establishment of the Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council

The City of Onomichi first looked into promoting the creation of a maritime city using the special features of the region, including its collection of maritime industries, historical heritage and culture, and unique maritime-related institutions. Onomichi and the Chugoku District Transport Bureau set up an office, and established the Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council in 2008. In addition to the Chugoku District Transport Bureau and the City of Onomichi, it also consists of local economic groups, shipbuilding and shipping industry officials, and educational institutions.

It has three main principles, namely the procurement and training of human resources for the maritime industry, sustainable development of the maritime industry, and enlightenment of the maritime industry's ideas, and the majority of its activities include conducting surveys and holding lectures pertaining to the maritime industry, creating public relations brochures and DVDs, holding offshore seminars, and conducting tours of ship launchings. It has been pointed out that such activities are proving beneficial for shipbuilding and related businesses, such as in terms of procuring human resources, due to the increased awareness of Onomichi's shipbuilding and numerous other industries.

As for information campaigns, the education board is also lending its participation apart from the efforts of the Promotion Council by conducting occasional shipyard tours for elementary and junior high school students.



尾道市の主要な造船・船用企業の所在地



Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council – Purpose of Establishment

May, 2008

City of Onomichi

Chugoku District Transport Bureau

The sea, which surrounds our nation on all four sides, plays a tremendously important role in both our economic activities and daily lives of our citizens from many perspectives, including the reliable transport of energy and resources. While our nation has developed many maritime industries, including shipping, port logistics, shipbuilding, and marine equipment, the Chugoku region in particular has a high concentration of such industries, which are extremely important to its local economy. Within the region, Onomichi in particular has a high concentration of shipbuilding and marine equipment manufacturing, as well as crewmember training institutions nearby, making it a unique maritime region.

However, despite the overall excellent condition of the maritime industry in recent years, there are some concerning elements, such as the sharp price increases in raw materials and fuel oil. In addition, we are now entering a period of declining birth rates and an aging population, making for a prominent rise in the age of the labor force and leaving us with the pressing matter of finding young people to take over the next generation.

Meanwhile, the Basic Act on Ocean Policy enacted in July 2007 stipulates the importance of making efforts to foster a deeper interest and understanding of the ocean in the general public. In addition, the consensus of the Human Infrastructure Board Meeting held by the Transport Policy Chamber's Maritime Subcommittee was that priority should be placed on increasing interest in the sea by young people through public relations campaigns depicting the appeal of the sea.

Given these arguments, Onomichi, which is attempting to turn itself into a maritime city, will need to make a comprehensive effort that includes procuring and training human resources for maritime and related industries; ensuring sustainable development of the maritime industry, an important part of the local economy; and offering enlightenment on the maritime industry's ideas. This Council was established to promote the creation of a maritime city that utilizes the unique features of the region through a partnership between educational institutions, the local economic circle, and maritime officials, including the Onomichi municipal government and the Chugoku District Transport Bureau.

Maritime City of Onomichi Promotion Council members

Industry Onomichi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Innoshima Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Onomichi Shimanami Commerce & Industry Association

Education Onomichi City University

Crew education Onomichi Marine Institute (Japan Marine Technical School), Yuge National College of Maritime Technology

Coastal shipping Federation of Chugoku District Coastal Shipping Association

Passenger ships Onomichi Passenger Boats Association

Shipbuilding Onomichi Dockyard, Naikai Zosen, Sanwa Dock

Labor union All Japan Seamen's Union Chu-Shikoku Regional Office, Onomichi Branch

Administration Chugoku District Transport Bureau's Maritime Department, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism - Onomichi Maritime Office, Innoshima Maritime Office; Commerce & Industry Division, Industry Department of Onomichi City

Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council offices

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'Onomichi Maritime City Promotion Council' homepage

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