**CNS Message on World Maritime Day-2015**

World Maritime Day is being celebrated internationally to highlight the importance of maritime sector in world’s economy and need for development of this extremely important domain. International Maritime Organization (IMO) has selected “**Maritime Education and Training**” as the theme of the day this year.

Provision of quality education and training is fundamental in flourishing maritime sector of a nation. The world’s leading maritime nations adopted a strategy of elevating standards of maritime education and training in order to meet the challenges of contemporary world. In this regard, International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping provides necessary guidelines for institutionalization of requisite benchmarks. Our country being a signatory of this important instrument is complying with the international requirements, however there is a dire need to be prepared for emerging challenges of maritime industry and proactively contribute towards international endeavors to deal with these challenges.

Pakistan is blessed with long coastline and abundance of marine resources in our EZZ and extended limits of our continental shelf. The country’s realization of this vast potential has so far been woefully inadequate. The foremost need is to recognize this extremely important asset and promote maritime research and educational activities to accrue long term benefits from this rich resource.

On this important day, we pledge to make concentrated efforts towards development of the maritime sector in Pakistan. I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders to promote maritime awareness in order to achieve sustainable development in Pakistan’s maritime sector.