

**CNS MESSAGE ON WORLD MARITIME DAY 2016**  
**(29 September 2016)**

In today's globalized world, maritime trade plays a vital role as it supports, transforms and sustains societies across the globe. Both developed and developing countries have equally benefited from the trade through shipping as this is the most cost effective and environment-friendly form of commercial transportation. Testimony to this fact is the scope and scale of world maritime trade, which accounts for around 80% of the global trade by volume and 70% by value, carried by sea and handled by ports worldwide. In recognition to the important role played by ships and sea ports in the global economic system, this year International Maritime Organization has selected **“Shipping:” Indispensible to the world”** as theme of the World Maritime Day-2016.

Pakistan, with over 1000 km of coastline and having more than 95% of country's international trade transported through the sea, has benefited from the maritime trade, which is regarded as backbone of our economy. With the development of CPEC & Gwadar Port project, the maritime trade from Pakistan's ports would increase exponentially as the corridor will provide safe, secure and easy access to China as well as to the landlocked Central Asian States. Given the size of economies of the these countries coupled with expected growth of our economy, the shipping destined to/ from Gwadar and other ports would become indispensable for the economic growth of Pakistan and these countries. While we realize the significance of maritime trade for the country, paradoxically about 40% of liquid and merely 3% of dry cargo of our total national trade is carried by national shipping. For the remaining portion, we heavily rely on international shipping and spend a huge chunk of precious foreign exchange on account of freight charges, which is an indicative of the neglected Pakistan's shipping industry. In this context, on World Maritime Day, let us recognize the need for developing the shipping industry.

Pakistan Navy, on this important day pledges its full support towards development of Pakistan's Shipping Industry, ports and associated infrastructure. We believe this will be a step toward attaining self-sufficiency, sustainable economic growth and will facilitate international trade besides providing employment opportunities to our seafarers. I look forward to a profound and cumulative support from all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development in maritime economy in general and Pakistan's shipping industry in particular.