

Shipping and maritime sector have long been male dominated. IMO established the special program called the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector more than thirty years ago with a view to encouraging a great number of women in the maritime sector.

Women empowerment is brought forward at the UN meetings as one of the hot topics as well. The United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, the fifth of which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

In response to this tendency, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) takes various actions to continuously ensure that women are fully empowered in the maritime sector based on the successes of its past efforts for gender equality. The most notable is IMO's theme of the World Maritime Day 2019; *Empowering Women in the Maritime Community*, which aims at providing opportunities for its member States to share valuable achievements and experiences in their gender projects in the maritime sector.

Today gender equality has been recognized as one of the key platforms on which people can build a sustainable future. The maritime community itself is missing out on a huge talent pool if it fails to properly offer women adequate and fair access to workplace.

Recently there has been a lot of studies on gender equality which have shown that organizations with a higher percentage of women in senior management positions significantly outperform those that do not. Having more women in the workplace is beneficial for organizations as a whole, for men and for women.

In March, Secretary-General of IMO, suggesting that the theme of this year's World Maritime Day be gender related topic, said that IMO has been running a highly successful campaign to promote women in the maritime community for more than 30 years. He added that much more work remains, highlighting that the whole of the maritime

community, including IMO's member States and the maritime industries, needs to come together and commit to ensuring that women truly are empowered.

Today the DPR Korea ensures that women prove themselves efficient and productive in every part of the society with full awareness of the huge significance of their roles in the revolution. President **Kim Il Sung** proclaimed the Law on Sex Equality on July 30 1946 for the first time in the world history, which is spoken highly of as an epoch-making political event in the DPR Korean history as well as in the international women movement history since it radically exalted the position and role of the DPR Korean women. Thanks to this law, a number of women have launched out into the maritime sector to give full play to their efficiency and energy for seventy years or so. The best example is the *Joseonrodongdangui Ddal Nyosongchongnyon*, the famous fishing vessel crewed by girls who greatly contribute to the development of the fishery in the DPR Korea.

The female maritime officials of the DPR Korea who attended the meetings of the *Women in Maritime Asia* held recently in Philippines, Malaysia and Timor-Leste boasted that many efficient female maritime officials in the DPR Korea work hard to make as tangible contributions to the national maritime policy implementation as male officials do.

On the occasion of the World Maritime Day 2019, all the female maritime officials of the DPR Korea are sure that they will do their best to make joint efforts together with the women the world over for the common goals of safe navigation and clean oceans.