## **Corporate Governance**

# MOL's Philosophy, Management Reforms and Achievements

The MOL Group established the MOL Group Corporate Principles in March 2001. One of the pledges in our Corporate Principles states, "We will strive to maximize corporate value by always being creative, continually pursuing higher operating efficiency and promoting an open and visible management style that is guided by the highest ethical and social standards."

In order to realize the ideals set forth in the principles, MOL reformed its corporate governance structure, instituting management reforms that brought external directors to the board, separated management and executive functions, and that set standards for accountability, risk management and compliance. These reforms were implemented as follows:

1997	Outside auditors increased from one to two out of a total of four auditors
1998	George Hayashi (former APL chairman) invited to join the Board of Directors. (Became Director and Vice President in 1999, following revision of the Shipping Act)
2000	Management organization reform
	1. Introduced a system of executive officers
	Abolished the Managing Directors Committee and established an Executive Committee (reduced the membership from 21 to 10)
	Reformed the Board of Directors (redefined its duties as the highest- ranking decision-making body and the supervision of business activities) and reduced membership from 28 to 12
	4. Elected two external directors
	5. Established the Corporate Visionary Meeting
	Established the IR Office
	Started holding the Annual General Shareholders' Meeting on a day relatively free of other shareholders' meetings
2001	Established the MOL Group Corporate Principles
	Added one more external director, increasing the number of external directors to three
	Established Compliance Policy and a Compliance Committee
2002	Second stage of management reforms
	Reforms reinforced the roles of the Board of Directors concerning the determination of basic strategies and monitoring risk management while providing for faster decision-making at the business execution level.
	The Board of Directors was reorganized to carry out three important functions: (1) deliberation on issues requiring approval by the directors; (2) receipt of reports on business operations; and (3) deliberation on corporate strategy and vision.
	2. Review and consolidation of issues submitted to the Board of Directors
	Expanded jurisdiction of the Executive Committee regarding execution of business activities

Actions during the past year					
May 2006	Established Corporate Auditor Office, a unit that is independent of the business execution side of MOL's organization for the purpose of assisting the corporate auditors perform their duties.				
June 2006	External director Takeo Shiina retired and Yoko Ishikura, a professor at the graduate school of Hitotsubashi University, was elected as his replacement.				
Fiscal 2005 meetings of governance bodies					
	The number of meetings during the fiscal year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and their sub-committees are shown in the Corporate Governance Organization chart on the opposite page.				

The chart on the next page shows the structure of our corporate governance organization.

At MOL we believe that the essence of corporate governance lies not in its structure or organization, but on whether or not it functions effectively. In our case, the corporate governance structure described above functions as follows:

1. Major investment projects, such as the construction of new vessels, are submitted to the Board of Directors at the basic policy

- formulation stage. The 11 directors, including external directors, thoroughly evaluate and discuss the pros and cons of the projects and make decisions on their feasibility from many perspectives. Transferring the authority to implement projects within the scope of the basic policy to executive officers supervised by the president speeds decision making on individual projects. The separation of the management and execution functions was one important contribution to allowing the MOL Group to build up a fleet of the right type of vessels at the right time.
- 2. Another important responsibility of the Board of Directors is deliberation on corporate strategy and vision. At each meeting, the board focuses on a particular topic concerning management strategies, MOL's long-term vision or other subjects involving management. These discussions provide an opportunity for lively debates that include the external directors and corporate auditors, thus helping to ensure that the perspective of shareholders is reflected in how MOL is managed.
- 3. The Board of Directors has 11 members, including three external directors who are completely independent and have no conflict of interest with MOL. There are four corporate auditors, who are responsible for performing statutory auditing functions, including two individuals who are completely independent and have no conflict of interest with MOL. At a time when the auditing systems of corporations are taking on added importance, it goes without saying that the independence of auditors from management and policy execution is assured. Our corporate auditors work closely with the Internal Audit Office and independent public accountants to assure effective corporate governance. They also work on strengthening corporate governance and compliance throughout the group.

Recognizing that MOL's corporate governance system is working efficiently, the Pension Fund Association included MOL in a portfolio of 43 companies\* comprising its Corporate Governance Fund, which was established in August 2004.

\* 53 companies as of June 30, 2006

#### **Accountability**

MOL believes that timely, full and fair disclosure of corporate and financial information is an important aspect of corporate governance. In addition to being accountable to shareholders and investors by providing information, the company makes every effort possible to reflect their opinions in management.

The distinguishing feature of our investor relations activities is that the president takes the lead in their implementation. In fiscal 2005, the president participated in the company's presentations of quarterly results and attended meetings with domestic and foreign investors. This reflects his conviction that it is the chief executive officer's responsibility to explain future corporate strategies to investors. The company is also aware of the need for full and fair disclosure to all investors, whether in Japan or overseas. At the same time its quarterly financial results in Japanese are released over the Tokyo Stock Exchange's TD-net, the company posts them to its web site with an accompanying English translation. The Japanese and English drafts of presentation materials are also posted on the web site. This information is e-mailed on the same day to foreign investors registered with the company.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of its IR activities, in fiscal 2005 MOL received a "Special IR Prime Business Award" from the Japan

Investor Relations Association (JIRA). The Corporate Disclosure Study Group of the Securities Analysts Association of Japan awarded MOL the Excellence in Corporate Disclosure Award for the transportation sector in fiscal 2004 and 2005.

## **Director Compensation**

The Board of Directors, including the external directors, determines compensation for the directors. Compensation paid to directors in fiscal 2005 is shown in the table below.

The company has granted stock options to all directors, executive officers, general managers of divisions and branch offices and managers in similar positions, as well as to presidents of consolidated subsidiaries, to motivate them to carry out operations for the benefit of shareholders.

## Risk Management and Compliance

The most significant potential risk facing the company is an accident occurring in the operation of its vessels. To hedge this risk, the company has established an Operational Safety Committee headed by the president. The committee defines basic policies and measures to thoroughly assure the safety of vessel operations and takes every opportunity to raise employee awareness of the fact that "safe operation of vessels is the most fundamental issue for the company." To be prepared for a marine accident, we have compiled marine accident response manuals and

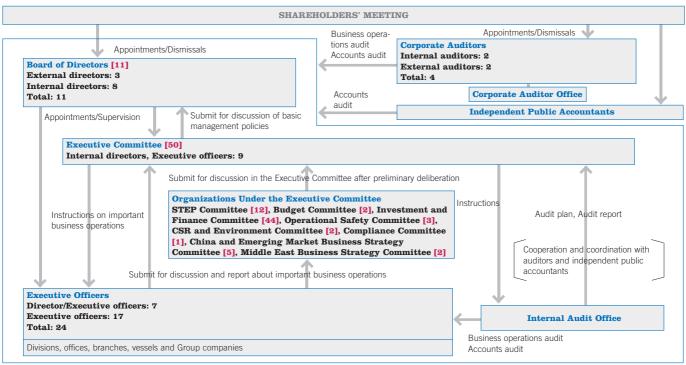
have established an emergency response system. We also conduct regular response drills premised on hypothetical marine accidents. More information concerning risks and their management is contained in the management's discussion and analysis section that begins on page 36.

As explained elsewhere, the company is aware of the crucial role that compliance plays in living up to its broad corporate social responsibilities, and that compliance with the letter of the law is at the core of this role.

We have strengthened our compliance system by establishing a Compliance Committee, headed by the vice president, to assure strict adherence to rules and regulations and to take action against any violation. General managers of each division, department and branch office, are appointed as Compliance Officers for their respective organizations. They are responsible for enforcing compliance regulations and for reporting any violations to the Compliance Committee Office. The Internal Audit Office, a body that operates independently of the company's divisions, departments and branch offices, provides a counseling service and also acts as a hot line in the event it is difficult for a report to be filed with a Compliance Officer. The Internal Audit Office undertakes investigations and audits as necessary and reports steps taken to the Compliance Committee.

The company works to assure a proper relationship with its independent public accountants. Compensation paid to independent public accountants in fiscal 2005 is shown in the table below.

#### Corporate Governance Organization (as of June 22, 2006)



Numbers in brackets show the number of meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and their sub-committees during fiscal 2005.

#### **Compensation for Directors**

	(¥ millions)	of U.S.\$)
Compensation for internal directors	¥523	\$4,452
Compensation for external directors	32	272
Compensation for internal corporate auditors	60	511
Compensation for external corporate auditors	14	119
Total	¥630	\$5,363

# Compensation for Independent

Public Accountants	(¥ millions)	(Thousands of U.S.\$)
Compensation for auditing services	¥44	\$375
Compensation for auditing-related services	23	196
Compensation for other services	_	_
Total	¥67	\$570