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BUNKERS.1/Circ.20
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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR BUNKER OIL
POLLUTION DAMAGE, 2001**

Accession by China

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, and to state that, in accordance with article 12, accession by the People's Republic of China was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 9 December 2008.

The instrument of accession by China contained the following declarations:

[Translation]

- “1. Article 7 of the Convention shall not apply to the ships operating exclusively within the inland waterways of the PRC.
2. In accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the PRC, the Government of the PRC decides that the Convention applies to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the PRC, and unless otherwise notified by the Government, shall not apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC.
3. The declaration made by the PRC to Article 7 of the Convention also applies to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the PRC.”

The Convention will enter into force for China on 9 March 2009, in accordance with the provisions of article 14.

There are, at present, thirty-one Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 50.13% of the world's merchant shipping.