**Standing Committee on Carriage of Goods (including Rotterdam Rules)**

17:00-19:00 in IMO Building on November 9, 2018

“Blockchain” technology, which provides the basis for virtual currency such as “bitcoin”, may be available to create a new type of electronic bills of lading. “Blockchain” can guarantee the “uniqueness” of the digital data and may provide the basis of “token” type of electronic bills of lading.[[1]](#footnote-1) There are various experimental projects under way in several places of the world.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Given the recent developments of the electronic bills of lading based on the blockchain technology, it is very important to examine whether and to what extent the current international legal regime on carriage of goods can support such developments. CMI Standing Committee on Carriage of Goods will meet at London (after the CMI Assembly) to explore the issue. More specifically, inviting the experts in this field, it will explore the possibility of the “blockchain bills of lading”, especially in the light of the regulation negotiable transport records under the Rotterdam Rules and other relevant international instruments.

**Agenda for Discussion**

1. Recent Project relating to “blockchain bills of lading” or other relevant trade documents.
2. Does “blockchain” bills of lading qualify as “negotiable electronic transport records” under the Rotterdam Rules? How “blockchain” bills of lading should be designed for the purpose?
3. The advantages and the disadvantages of the solution based on (1) international convention, (2) national legislation and (3) contractual arrangements.

The session is open to anyone who are interested in the subject. Those wishing to attend should please email their names, firms/companies represented and addresses to Evelien Peeters at admin-antwerp@comitemaritime.org

Tomotaka Fujita

1. See, Koji Takahashi, Blockchain technology and electronic bills of lading, 22 JIML 202 (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, “Wave” bills of lading *See* <http://wavebl.com/>; “Tradelens” (Maersk and IBM) *See* https://www.maersk.com/en/news/2018/06/29/maersk-and-ibm-introduce-tradelens-blockchain-shipping-solution and a consortium in Asia *See* https://www.ccn.com/japans-largest-firm-ntt-data-unveils-blockchain-consortium/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)