

## TRIUMPHANT DEBUT OF HIGH-TECH SURVEY VESSEL "SHOYO"

- THE WINNER OF THE SHIP OF THE YEAR 1998, JAPAN -

The Survey Vessel **Shoyo** was constructed by Mitsui Shipbuilding & Engineering Co., Ltd., and delivered to the Hydrographic Department of the Japan Maritime Safety Agency in 1998. Since commissioned on 20 March 1998, she has been engaged in various important missions, including detailed sea-bottom surveys in and around continental shelf areas and 200 miles extensive waters as well as earthquake prone areas and submarine volcanic activity areas.

In April 1999 the **Shoyo** was awarded the prize of "The Ship of the Year 1998" by the Society of Naval Architects of Japan. The prize of the Society was established in 1990 for promoting shipbuilding with high technology and artistry and is awarded to the most excellent ship among all designed and constructed yearly. Since established, luxury passenger liners, Ro-Ro freighters, high-speed ships (a techno-super liner) have been awarded the prize, and the **Shoyo** is the first survey ship among all. A preliminary selection is made by the Society for those nominated ships constructed during the year, which is followed by a final selection of the best ship by a committee composed of artists, representatives of the news media and others who are all renowned throughout Japan as distinguished intellectuals having deep knowledge of ships and shipbuilding. The **Shoyo** won the highest distinction of being the most excellent ship obtaining the highest mark of eight in eleven points (votes) for five aspects of technical originality and innovation, technical fruition and achievement, effect and influence to the public society, artistry and topicality in public.

The distinctive features that the **Shoyo** can boast include her beautiful, elegant profile, quietness, modern sophisticated survey and observation equipment as well as the high power main engines called ADD (Advanced Diesel Engine Development)-type Engine, which have been newly developed so as to make them higher power and downsized. The ADD-type engine has been made almost half in its total weight and volume in contrast to conventional engines generating an equivalent power. With the powerful but smaller-sized ADD-type engines equipped, the extra space has been so yielded inboard and can be practically utilized for not only comfortable operation facilities and living quarters but also additional instruments and goods, crew members and scientists, etc. This is also an advantage of the new **Shoyo**.

For efficient and effective survey operations in coastal waters, two 10-metre type survey launches are carried aboard, one of which is robotized, unmanned boat fully automated under either a computerized programme mode or a remote control mode operated from the mother ship "**Shoyo**". This robotized boat is particularly useful and powerful for conducting a hydrographic survey in and around dangerous waters such as submarine volcanic activity areas.



Survey Vessel "SHOYO"