members 61 that are connected to have a four-bar linkage mechanism in a closed loop, and a hydraulic cylinder 63 that is driven to fold or unfold the numerous link members 61.

When the other end 53 of the platform 50 is raised by the driving of the lift actuators 60, one end 51 of the platform 50 is rotated upward around the rotary shafts 19, and thus the platform 50 is maintained at a predetermined inclination.

In this case, the stinger 40 coupled to one end 51 of the platform 50 is rotated downward along with the rotation of the platform 50. As such, an angle at which the pipeline 20 is guided by the stinger 40 is increased.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the numerous lift actuators 60 may be disposed in the lengthwise direction of the platform so as to be able to sustain the dead weight of the platform 50.

Further, in the description of the present embodiment, the lift actuator 60 is made up of the numerous link members 61 and the hydraulic cylinder 63, but is not limited thereto. A variety of known means may be applied as long as they can raise the other end 53 of the platform to a predetermined height, which is also included in the technical ~~spirit~~ scope of the present invention.

With this configuration, the pipe-laying ship 10 has a first pipe-laying path (see FIG. 7) along which the pipeline 20 is laid with the platform 50 held horizontally, and a second pipe-laying path (see FIG. 8) along which the pipeline 20 is laid with the platform 50 inclined.

The first pipe-laying path may be used to lay the pipeline 20 in shallow waters, and the second pipe-laying path may be used to lay the pipeline 20 in deep waters that are relatively deeper than the shallow waters.

Referring to FIGS. 5 and 6 again, a variable ladder 70 having rungs 71 that unfold when the platform 50 is raised may be installed on one lateral face of the platform 50. This is intended to enable a worker to climb up to the platform 50 using the variable ladder 70 when the platform 50 is raised.

The variable ladder 70 may have a typical structure in which the numerous rungs 71 are

Thus, it is possible to relatively reduce the plastic deformation caused by the bending of the pipeline 20 at a portion at which the pipeline is transferred to the stinger 40 compared to the case in which only the angle at which the stinger 40 is guided to the water surface is changed.

The invention has been illustrated and described with respect to specific embodiments. However, the invention is not limited to the above embodiments, and thus it is apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope ~~and spirit~~ of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.