



Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) – 14th Session

Meeting Statement

1. The Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum convened its 14th meeting from 1 to 4 July in Cairns, Australia.
2. Twenty countries and territories were represented. They were: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Micronesia (Federated States of); New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; the United States; and Vietnam.
3. Five organisations were also represented. They were: the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
4. Participants reaffirmed the opportunity APHoMSA provides maritime agencies to share information on matters of mutual interest including regional cooperation, protecting the marine environment, safety at sea, and search and rescue. APHoMSA has the potential to grow further, providing maritime agencies the opportunity to work together in increasingly meaningful ways to enhance international standards.

Regional Cooperation

5. Participants acknowledged the importance of the maritime sector to trade and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region and that APHoMSA provides a mechanism for a strong regional voice on maritime issues.
6. Participants acknowledged the program of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Program and the opportunity for increased collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), particularly with regards to regional engagement on global issues.
7. Technical cooperation and support coupled with capacity building remain a high priority for APHoMSA members. Participants were encouraged by the presentations on the level of technical cooperation within the Asia-Pacific, including the number of activities in the past 12 months and future planned activities. Increased transparency and better coordination – particularly with regards to technical cooperation – is a core function of APHoMSA.
8. APHoMSA will develop a list of upcoming regional (and multi-country) technical cooperation activities planned for the next 12 months. Australia will coordinate the development of this list out of session, with a view to it being updated prior to each APHoMSA meeting.

Protecting the Marine Environment

9. Participants noted ongoing regional efforts on preparedness for oil spills and hazardous and noxious substance incidents as highlighted in a presentation provided by Japan. Participants acknowledged progress on ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in the Pacific, noting also the work recently completed towards regional port reception facilities. The forum also noted MARPOL as a cornerstone environmental convention integral to addressing marine pollution.
10. Participants noted the growing use of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a marine fuel, particularly given its potential cost and environmental benefits. Participants noted the need for continued regulatory and technological improvements. China will provide an update at APHoMSA 2014.
11. Participants noted the use of satellite technology for oil spill monitoring. Trials have been undertaken and there has been some success in demonstrating the reliability and cost effectiveness of such a system compared to aerial monitoring. Australia will provide an update at APHoMSA 2014.

Safety at Sea

12. Participants acknowledged Canada's work on developing a comprehensive tanker safety regime that will put in place safety and environmental safeguards.
13. Participants acknowledged the outstanding example presented by the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore in developing a regional approach to safety of navigation and environmental issues.
14. Participants acknowledged the importance of addressing non-convention vessel safety and noted the importance of a renewed focus on this area, particularly domestic ferry safety.
15. Participants noted the development of the BeiDou Satellite Navigation System. BeiDou currently provides position, timing, and velocity services for China and adjacent areas. Full global coverage is still under development.
16. Participants acknowledged the efforts of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) to address the security threat posed by piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants acknowledged the membership of a number of Asia-Pacific states present at APHoMSA 2013 including China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. Australia will become the 19th Contracting Party of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) on 3 August 2013.

Maritime Incident Response

17. Participants agreed to the need for the ongoing and further deepened cooperation on search and rescue matters. Participants noted the development of the Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) satellite system as an augmentation of the existing international Cospas-Sarsat system. Each MEOSAR ground station covers a much larger area than the current system and only a few ground stations would be needed in the Asia-Pacific region.
18. The meeting was provided with a briefing on recent maritime incidents and their implications in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants noted that responding to and preventing maritime incidents was becoming more challenging given the continued growth of shipping in the region.

The Future of APHoMSA

19. Participants agreed APHoMSA has been successful in pursuing its objectives. A more formalised structure would ensure regular and predictable participation by members. It would also strengthen APHoMSA's ability to provide strong and consistent messages on issues of importance to the region.
20. Participants agreed the initial membership group of APHoMSA would include those in attendance at the 14th APHoMSA (see Paragraph 2 above). Other maritime agencies in Asia-Pacific countries could then be invited to join, potentially including other Asia-Pacific countries who have not previously participated in APHoMSA forums. A standing invitation would be given to the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Tokyo MOU to become APHoMSA observers.
21. Participants agreed APHoMSA's annual meetings be built around four sessions, establishing the 'four pillars of APHoMSA': (i) Regional Cooperation; (ii) Protecting the Marine Environment; (iii) Safety at Sea, including seafarer welfare; and (iv) Maritime Incident Response.
22. Participants agreed APHoMSA would continue to be held annually, with the host agency being agreed at least two years prior. Australia will act as an informal secretariat unless other arrangements are agreed. Secretariat functions would include: maintenance of website; issuing invitations; preparation of the agenda and distribution of discussion papers; producing the forum Meeting Statement; and providing relevant outcomes to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Technical Cooperation Committee. The host will be responsible for venue and hospitality arrangements and costs.
23. Fiji will host in 2014. China will host in 2015. New Zealand will host in 2016.



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