



15<sup>th</sup> Session

Distributed: 7 May 2014

## Outcome Statement

### Introduction

1. The Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum convened its 15<sup>th</sup> session from 5 to 7 May in Denarau Nadi, Fiji, hosted by the Government of Fiji. The meeting was opened and closed by the Honorable Timoci Natuva, Minister for Works, Transport and Public Utilities.
2. Members reaffirmed APHoMSA is uniquely positioned to provide a strong regional voice on maritime issues of mutual interest and represent the region at international fora to enhance international standards and compliance.
3. Sixteen Members were represented. They were: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Philippines and Singapore. Four Observer nations were also represented: Kiribati; Solomon Islands; Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
4. Five standing Observer organisations were represented. They were the International Maritime Organization (IMO); ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre; Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Secretariat of the Tokyo MoU.
5. Other Observer agencies also attended on the invitation of the host nation including, the Fiji Navy, the Fiji Maritime Academy and University of the South Pacific.

### Administrative Arrangements

6. Participants recalled that at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA it was agreed a formalised structure for the forum, including a defined membership group, would ensure more regular and predictable participation from members.
7. At the 15<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA, members confirmed that this momentum should be maintained and agreed that broader representation of the Asia-Pacific region would strengthen APHoMSA's ability to provide regional representation on issues of mutual interest to the region and provide further opportunities for technical cooperation, information sharing and to enhance international standards.



8. Members agreed that the 'Asia-Pacific Region' for the purposes of APHoMSA membership eligibility will be defined as all countries and territories located on the Pacific Rim.
9. Members adopted the Rules of Procedure for APHoMSA meetings. Members confirmed that APHoMSA should continue to act in the spirit of consensus when making decisions. The Rules of Procedure agreed at the meeting are attached to this Outcome Statement.
10. Members agreed to the development of guidelines for the future hosting of APHoMSA. The Secretariat will distribute the draft guidelines to Members for comment by end June 2014.
11. Members agreed that the guidelines will include that prospective hosts consider funding opportunities to provide support for Members with limited capacity to attend.
12. Members offered Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu membership. APHoMSA requests that these nations provide formal written confirmation of agreement subject to the outcome of internal consultations.

## Pillar 1 - Regional Cooperation

13. Members noted the challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation in the area of maritime safety, protection of the marine environment and incident response raised by Fiji and Singapore.
14. Members acknowledged the progress of New Zealand's Maritime Safety Assistance Program in Kiribati. Australia and New Zealand agreed to circulate information about their marine safety programs in Kiribati and the Torres Strait to Members to assist with the identification of lessons learned over the course of developing and implementing these programs.
15. Members noted the technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia-Pacific region by the IMO, the IALA World Wide Academy and the Tokyo MOU. It was agreed that APHoMSA Members and Observers would provide the Secretariat with details of technical cooperation activities planned for the region.
16. Members agreed to update IMO Country Maritime Profiles. SPREP and SPC will provide assistance to nations where requested.
17. Members noted that the APHoMSA Secretariat will update the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee on outcomes of this meeting at its 64th session in June 2014.



## Pillar 2 - Marine Environment Protection

18. Members noted Singapore's paper on Ballast Water Management Convention and Singapore's preparations for MEPC 67.
19. Members also noted the successful outcomes of the trials of satellite technology for oil spill monitoring in Australia and the new National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies being implemented in Australia.
20. Members noted the paper on the environmental issues that the Pacific nations face, developed by SPREP. Members agreed that ongoing collaboration with Pacific nations is vital in dealing with environmental issues.
21. Members supported the development by SPREP of:
  - a. options to address World War II wreck issues in the Pacific
  - b. management options to reduce sources of marine plastic litter
  - c. regional scoping requirements for tracking of vessels (LRIT and AIS) in the Pacific, and
  - d. options to address wrecks and derelict vessels in the Pacific.
22. Members also agreed to support the Regional Reception Facilities Plan; 2013 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) preparedness; and the GEF-6 Invasive Species proposals.
23. SPREP agreed to provide their strategy in relation to wrecks to the APHoMSA Secretariat for circulation to Members.
24. Members noted the challenges associated with wreck removal along the China coast and discussed the broader navigational and marine environmental challenges presented by wrecks, as well as the opportunities to employ different methods for wreck removal and stabilisation. China agreed to provide information on the progress of the wreck removal program and the lessons learned.

## Pillar 3 - Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

25. Members acknowledged the challenges presented by increased shipping traffic throughout the Asia-Pacific region and Canada's success in developing comprehensive enhancements to their ship safety system.
26. Members noted the new domestic safety regimes in New Zealand and Indonesia and the critical issues in implementation. Members also acknowledged the importance of addressing safety issues for non-SOLAS vessels. New Zealand agreed to provide further information about the new domestic safety regime once implemented.



27. Members and Observers noted the progress Fiji has made, and the challenges facing Pacific Island Countries and Territories in implementation and enforcement of international obligations relating to seafarer training and labour conditions. Members acknowledged these challenges and:
- a) noted the need for technical assistance for Pacific Island Countries and Territories to draft national legislation that will address the amendments to the 2010 Manila Amendments to the *Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)*, the 2006 *Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)* and the future amendments to these Conventions
  - b) agreed that APHoMSA will provide support for the request of Pacific Island Countries and Territories governments for assistance from international organisations for provision of assistance to Pacific Island Countries and Territories to develop, review and maintain currency of their national legislation
  - c) agreed to adopt a strategic approach to foster seafarer development, allocate adequate resources and funding and promote seafaring career pathway in their education systems to ensure high quality training for seafarers and the wider maritime needs in the region
  - d) agreed to formulate regional agreements between maritime training institutions in the region to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories to develop high quality training programs for their seafarers and the wider maritime sector
  - e) agreed to continue to develop bilateral agreements between member States addressing the need for mutual recognition of seafarer's certificates of competency under the STCW Convention or pursuing the option of having a regional agreement to address this issue, and
  - f) agreed that APHoMSA should formally approach ILO to support the organization of a regional workshop on MLC and ongoing support in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Pacific Island Countries and Territory Members agreed to identify to their respective governments the significance of the MLC.
28. Members noted that SPC has developed model regulations for the MLC and the Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

## Pillar 4 – Maritime Incident Response

29. Members noted Australia's use of satellite AIS.
30. Members noted the opportunities for improved maritime safety provided by the continued development of e-Navigation. Members supported further discussion on e-Navigation in the Asia-Pacific through an e-Navigation Underway Conference.



31. Members noted Philippines' response to Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and the valuable lessons that could be drawn from the response to this natural disaster. Members noted the scale and complexity of the response to the typhoon, which was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall on record, and the importance of preparation to deal with large scale natural disasters.
32. Members thanked Singapore and Hong Kong, China for providing case studies of recent maritime incidents demonstrating the measures taken to prevent and respond to maritime incidents.
33. Members:
  - a) agreed to consider expanding and strengthening regional efforts in conducting more tabletop and field operational exercises, workshops, conferences, seminars, dialogues, forums, systems development, capability enhancement and the likes covering the areas of search and rescue operations, emergency preparedness, disaster relief management and risk prevention and mitigation
  - b) noted SPC work on disaster risk management and there is the opportunity for this work to be aligned with the work anticipated by Members
  - c) noted the unique challenges associated with mass rescue operations, and the significance of this issue to the Asia-Pacific region
  - d) agreed to consider the capacity of national Search and Rescue plans and capabilities to anticipate mass rescue operations and
  - e) noted the importance of gaining experience from others through attending IMRF's Mass Rescue Operation Conference or other similar workshops.

## Other Business

34. Members adopted the APHoMSA Strategy 2014 – 2020 and agreed that the Secretariat would develop a draft work plan in consultation with Members in support of the Strategy for consideration at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA.
35. Members agreed that APHoMSA would continue to be held between March and May in each year with the Secretariat reporting outcomes to the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee.
36. Members noted the decision from the 14<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA that China will host APHoMSA in 2015 and New Zealand will host in 2016.
37. Members and Observers thanked the host nation, Fiji, for the excellent arrangements and choice of venue for the 15<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA.