



18<sup>th</sup> Session

Distributed: 23 March 2017

## Outcome Statement

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was convened 22-24 March 2017 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The meeting was opened by the Honourable Minister of Transport Malaysia, Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, and was chaired by the Director General of the Malaysia Marine Department, Dato' Haji Baharin Abdul Hamid. The meeting was closed by the Deputy Director General of the Malaysia Marine Department, Dato' Rossid Musa.
2. Twenty Members were represented: Australia; Canada, Chile; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Kiribati, Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Tuvalu; United States; and Vietnam.
3. Four standing Observers were represented: the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA); the National Hydrographic Centre Malaysia (on behalf of the International Hydrographic Organization) and the Pacific Community (SPC).
4. Four Observer states were represented: Maldives; Mongolia; Timor-Leste; and Vanuatu.

## Administrative Arrangements

5. Members thanked both Malaysia and the IMO Secretariat for providing funding for a number of delegates to attend. Members welcomed the continued strong participation at APHoMSA by women and Pacific Island countries.
6. The intersessional APHoMSA Secretariat paper distributed between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> session on Regional Cooperation activities in the Asia-Pacific was noted and the Secretariat thanked Members for their input. The intersessional work of the three established APHoMSA correspondence groups was also noted, and Members were encouraged to express interest to the coordinator if they wished to join these groups.

## Regional Cooperation

7. Members noted the Secretariat's annual update of relevant outcomes from key meetings of international and regional organisations relating to the APHoMSA pillars. Members agreed to notify the Secretariat of any particular outcomes they would like included in this resource.
8. Members noted the United States' report on the Correspondence Group on Domestic Shipping Safety, and agreed that the group would collate and share any results following Member's use of



the Domestic Shipping Safety assessment tool, with a view to address identified needs. The United States agreed to continue to lead this group intersessionally.

9. Members agreed to continue to participate in the correspondence group on implementation of IMO Conventions and IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), led by China. China agreed to continue to lead this group intersessionally.
10. China presented their report of the correspondence group on safe carriage of cargoes and agreed to continue to lead this group intersessionally. Members noted the report, and agreed to include participation in this correspondence group on the APHoMSA work plan for 2017. China agreed to again lead this group.
11. Members noted the information presented by the IMO regarding their regional presence in the Pacific. Members agreed that the IMO's approach to technical cooperation and IMO presence in the South Pacific needed to be both sustainable and increased to meet the needs of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in the region. IMO and SPC agreed to report on this issue at the next session.
12. Members noted information on SPC coordination and technical assistance in the Pacific region under the *Framework for Action on Transport Services 2011-2020*, and thanked SPC for their continued leadership in the Pacific region. SPC will align its work plan and priorities to assist its Members to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
13. Members noted the recent developments and activities of the Tokyo MOU in 2016. Members also noted the planned Tokyo MOU Technical Cooperation Programmes for 2016-2017, and thanked the Tokyo MOU for their good work in promoting effective Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific region. Members agreed to write to the Tokyo MOU Secretariat, expressing continued thanks to primary donors the Nippon foundation; thanking outgoing Secretary Mr Mitsutoyo Okada for his work; and welcoming new Secretary, Mr Hideo Kubota.
14. Members noted the Republic of Korea's hosting of the inaugural e-Navigation Underway Conference Asia-Pacific 2017, scheduled for June. Members and Observers acknowledged the generous offer from Republic of Korea to fund a representative from each APHoMSA Member to attend this conference.
15. Members thanked IALA for their update on recent activity in the Asia-Pacific region. Members encouraged IALA target states in the APHoMSA region to request technical needs assessment missions if desired; considered the value of IALA's distance learning programme for aids to navigation managers; and encouraged participation in IALA activities in the region.
16. Members noted the paper from Malaysia regarding the establishment of a regional VTS Operator training centre. Members agreed their competent authorities may consider recognising



certificates from MATRAIN. The APHoMSA Chair acknowledged that APHoMSA, as an organisation, is not a competent authority.

17. Members noted information from the Republic of Korea on Korea Maritime Week, to be held in June 2017.

## Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

18. Members noted the information provided by Australia and New Zealand on their second generation Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) trial, which began in February this year with signals expected to be transmitted in June 2017.
19. Members thanked New Zealand for their update on international initiatives, including ratification of improved implementation of international conventions on fishing vessel safety; reporting incidents in Polar waters to the IMO; and ongoing work to progress Polar Code Phase II, since the 17<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA. New Zealand agreed to report on progressing the Polar Code Phase II at the next session of APHoMSA.
20. Members thanked Singapore for sharing their Safe Passage in the Singapore Strait video. Members agreed that this video may be adaptable for use in other challenging navigational passages.
21. Members noted Singapore's Safety@Sea campaign, including various measures implemented to enhance the safety of ferries operating out of Singapore. Members discussed the safety measures surrounding life rafts, in particular the difficulties of servicing life rafts. Fiji offered to share their experiences with this requirement.
22. Members noted the paper from China, encouraging wider use throughout the Asia-Pacific region of electronic certificates. Members agreed to continue to discuss the practicalities of the use of electronic certificates at the IMO.
23. Members thanked Malaysia for their paper on measures adopted for issuing certificates of competency as per STCW78, as amended (Manila Amendments).
24. Members noted Papua New Guinea's position in taking correcting actions following findings of their recent audit under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme.
25. Members noted Vanuatu's maritime progression, including recent initiatives to improve ship safety.
26. Members congratulated Solomon Islands on their progress toward becoming a maritime authority, and encouraged donors to provide funds to make the final stages of the transition possible.



## Maritime Incident Response

27. Members thanked New Zealand and Australia for providing an update on their Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) satellite beacon distress system, including its use in search and rescue efforts in the Pacific region. Members agreed that this project was an excellent example of cooperation within the region. Australia and New Zealand will share further information with Members on the 'footprint' of the MEOSAR system.
28. Members noted China's paper on implementing lessons learned from maritime casualty in maritime training and education, for the benefit of seafarers. Members also noted that lessons learned were publically available on websites such as the IMO's Global Integrated Shipping Information System.
29. Members noted the Cook Islands' report on their recent experiences with maritime incidents, and agreed to share information on media management during maritime incidents, as well as effective communication between agencies.
30. Members thanked Malaysia for their paper outlining the benefits of developing guidelines on place of refuge for ships in need of assistance in the Straits of Malacca. Malaysia will provide an update on progress at the 19th session of APHoMSA.

## Protecting the Marine Environment

31. Members noted IMO's paper on a 'roadmap' for the development of a comprehensive IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships. The IMO agreed to report on implementation of the Strategy at the 19<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA.
32. Members agreed that the APHoMSA Secretariat will write to the IMO Secretariat, on behalf of Members, expressing an Asia-Pacific view on the Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships. This letter will be drafted and distributed to APHoMSA Members to achieve consensus on the content prior to sending to the IMO Secretariat.
33. Members noted the concerns of Small Island Developing States in the Asia-Pacific region regarding implementation of measures to reduce GHG emissions from ships.
34. Members noted the IMO's paper on the decision made on the effective date of the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit required under the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*. The IMO agreed to report interessionally to APHoMSA on measures being taken to prepare adequately for the 2020 implementation date, with a specific focus on progress in the Asia-Pacific region.
35. Members agreed to support the designation of the Tubbatha Reefs Natural Park in the Philippines as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA).



36. Members congratulated Papua New Guinea on the designation of the Jomard Passage as a PSSA, and agreed to support PNG on the implementation.
37. Members noted information regarding Canada's Oceans Protection Plan.

## Other Business

38. Members noted the information provided by Chile on the 19<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA to be held at Hotel Sheraton, Viña del Mar, during the first fortnight of April in 2018. Members also recalled Republic of Korea would host the 20<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA in 2019.
39. Members agreed that Canada will host the 21<sup>st</sup> session of APHoMSA in 2020 in Vancouver.
40. Members agreed to Timor Leste and Vanuatu's membership of APHoMSA.
41. Members agreed to the 2017 Work Plan which was tabled in support of the APHoMSA Strategy 2014-2020.
42. Captain Ruoi Tioon of Kiribati on behalf of Members and Observers thanked the Host Member, Malaysia, for the excellent arrangements and choice of venue for the 18<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA.