



20<sup>th</sup> Session of APHoMSA

Distributed: 16 April 2019

## Outcome Statement

1. The 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was convened 14-17 April 2019 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting was opened by the Mr Kim Min-jong , Director General of Maritime Affairs and Safety Policy Bureau, , and was chaired by;
  - Session 1 - Mr Hong, Sunbae, Head of e-Navigation Development Task Force, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
  - Sessions 2 & 3 – Mr Mick Kinley, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Maritime Safety Authority
  - Sessions 5 & 6 – Mr Keith Manch, Chief Executive Officer, Maritime New Zealand

The meeting was closed by Mr. Kim Min-jong.

2. Twenty-two Members were represented: Australia; Canada, Chile; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Indonesia; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Hong Kong China, Mongolia; New Zealand; Niue, Papua New Guinea; Kiribati, Philippines; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste; Tuvalu; United States; Vanuatu and Vietnam.
3. Five standing Observers were represented: the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA); the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MOU), the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre; and the Pacific Community (SPC).

## Marine Environment Protection

4. Members noted updates from IMO and Singapore on preparations for the introduction of the 0.50% sulphur limit, which enters into effect on 1 January 2020. The new regulations represent a significant step towards establishing a robust global regime responsive to improving air quality experienced in coastal areas. Members noted that further details can be found in document PPR 6/20. Canada provided advice on the North American emissions control area and has developed a template for reporting fuel non-availability. Canada has offered to provide a paper to the next session of APHoMSA. Niue raised concerns over the potential increase in freight rates in the Pacific. Papua New Guinea reported that they are working with industry to assist older vessels comply with the regulations. Members also thanked Singapore for promoting the publication of two technical guidance booklets to assist the shipping industry prepare for introduction of the new regulations.

5. Members noted the actions Australia is taking to support the IMO's *Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships*. Australia reported on a number of national projects that will be undertaken to contribute to the Action Plan to support the implementation and enforcement of MARPOL V in the Pacific Islands region. Members agreed that the focus of MPEC should remain on implementation of the Action Plan rather than on development of an IMO Strategy. Canada and New Zealand agreed that the priorities of the Working Group should remain on more detailed discussion of the measures under the Action Plan, and that a Strategy may be developed at a later date.
6. Members noted Fiji's efforts to remove marine debris from Suva Harbour, which includes cleaning of the seabed, community awareness programs and strengthened enforcement actions for marine polluters. Members acknowledged the issue facing Fiji and agreed to discuss how further assistance can be provided. PNG congratulated FIJI on their efforts and noted that culture creates problems for the disposal and management of waste and community education programs are an important way to address this issue. Fiji agreed to provide an update on progress at the next session of APHoMSA.
7. Members noted Australia's update on plans to review and update the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN). Australia considers the review as an opportunity to update PACPLAN to introduce clear goals and objectives for improvement in regional and national arrangements and to supplement PACPLAN with a work program. Members supported the review and agreed there is opportunity for the issue to be discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers meeting in Samoa in September 2019.
8. China provided members with an update on the implementation scheme for the Domestic Emission Control Areas (DCEA) for atmospheric pollution from ships. The scheme promotes green shipping development, energy saving and emissions reductions from ships. Members agreed to communicate the requirements of the scheme to ensure ships flying their flag comply when navigating, berthing or operating in China's DCEAs.

## Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

9. Members thanked China for the report of the Correspondence Group on Safe Carriage of Cargo. Members noted the value of continuing to participate in the Correspondence Group to share experiences, difficulties and solutions for the safe carriage of cargo. Members agreed that the focus of the Correspondence Group for the next year will include improved information sharing regarding the transportation of solid bulk cargoes not listed in Appendix 1 of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code.
10. Members thanked China for the report of the Correspondence Group on Implementation of IMO Convention and IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) and noted the experiences shared by a number of APHoMSA members. Members agreed to continue to participate in the



Correspondence Group and focus efforts on improved communication of information to IMO by Member States to assist with implementation of IMO conventions and preparation for IMSAS.

11. Member's noted the update on New Zealand's efforts to reduce recreational boating fatalities and congratulated New Zealand on the successful outcomes achieved through the Safer Boating Forum. Members discussed common challenges relating to recreational boating safety across the region, noting that Australia and New Zealand already work together on safer recreational boating through the Australia/New Zealand Safer Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG). It was agreed that ANZSBEG would be requested to consider how best to form links with APHoMSA and report back to APHoMSA 2020.
12. Singapore updated members on their efforts to operationalise e-Navigation. e-Navigation is expected to provide digital information and infrastructure for the benefit of maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment. Members were encouraged to support and participate in the various e-Navigation initiatives offered by IMO and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).
13. Members also noted the update from the Republic of Korea on the development of the Asia Pan-Pacific (APP) Web testbed. APPWeb testbed aims to provide a web-based platform where digital maritime services can be discovered by ships and shore authorities. Members were encouraged to participate in the APPWeb and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific Conference and Capacity Building Workshop in September 2019 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Republic of Korea agreed to report on further progress of APPWeb at the next session of APHoMSA.
14. Papua New Guinea updated members on progress made towards gender equality in the Pacific maritime sector through establishment of the National Women in Maritime Association in Papua New Guinea (PNGWIMA) and Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PACWIMA). Members noted that a Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime will be presented for endorsement at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers meeting in September 2019. IMO suggested that there is potential for women in maritime associations to address key issues including safety of passenger ships, marine litter and safety of fishing vessels by engaging at the community level. Members agreed to support national and regional networks of women in maritime as the instruments to promote gender equality and women's contribution to the maritime sector.
15. Members noted New Zealand's modern regulatory approach to improving the safety of ships' lifting appliances. APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to approach the International Labour Organization (ILO) inviting future participation at APHoMSA forums.
16. Members thanked SPC for the update on the Pacific MOU on Flag State Implementation for Domestic Ships and congratulated the Secretariat and member administrations on progress made to implement the MOU.

17. SPC updated members on efforts to promote safe, green, efficient and accessible domestic shipping in the Pacific Islands. Members noted that the Pacific Island Domestic Ship Safety Program (PIDSS) involves effective implementation of Safety Management Systems on-board ships, utilisation of the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre in the Pacific to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories embrace low carbon shipping, and support of PACWIMA. Members recognised the need for a community based approach to safe, green, efficient and accessible domestic shipping in the Pacific.
18. Members noted SPC's update on the technical assistance provided to the Pacific under the framework of the *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation*. Members complemented SPC on the application of quality risk tools and the cooperation, coordination and sharing of information shown. Members were once again encouraged to consider participation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific Conference and Capacity Building Workshop in September 2019 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
19. Vanuatu provided members with an update on the establishment of the Vanuatu Office of the Maritime Regulator (OMR). Members agreed to support the OMR where possible.
20. Members noted China's update on measures to improve domestic ferry safety and noted that China plans to submit a document to the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) requesting a new output to enhance domestic ferry safety. Members appreciated China's efforts to complement the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Program.
21. Malaysia updated Members on progress with a joint hydrographic survey of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.
22. Members noted the update on Indonesia's proposals to establish new traffic separation schemes and associated routing measures in the Sunda and Lombok Straits. Members congratulated Indonesia on the successful approval of the proposal at the 6<sup>th</sup> session of IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) and agreed to consider supporting the proposal at the 101<sup>st</sup> session of IMO MSC.

## Maritime Incident Response

23. Members acknowledged the value of the Pacific Search and Rescue Workshop (PACSAR) in building SAR capability in the Pacific. Members agreed that Australia and SPC will develop a submission, in consultation with principal members of PACSAR, to the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee seeking funding support for the 2020-21 biennium. Members are encouraged to consider co-sponsoring the submission.
24. The United States updated members on developments of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety Systems (GADSS). Members discussed how to provide effective SAR services under the system, which will become mandatory from 1 January 2021. Members acknowledged the value of participating in the annual International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia-Pacific SAR



Working Group meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2019. Australia offered to develop a paper on next generation beacons for consideration at the next session of APHoMSA.

25. Members discussed the threat posed to coastal ports by tropical cyclones in the Asia Pacific region. Members agreed to continue to share best practices in how to prepare for and respond to cyclone emergencies. Members thanked China for sharing their experiences and agreed that APHoMSA is a suitable forum to strengthen communication and share best practices. IALA requested that members with suitable construction codes or standards for aids to navigation share this information with APHoMSA members. Members agreed to inform the APHoMSA Secretariat of relevant technical cooperation activities to enhance capability in the Asia Pacific region.
26. Members thanked ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre for the update on the situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia for 2018 and congratulated their effective use of data and analytics to better understand incidents.
27. Hong Kong, China provided an update to members on the actions taken in response to the explosion of a chemical tanker in the waters of Hong Kong, China in January 2019. Members thanked Hong Kong, China for sharing the lessons learnt from this incident and agreed that the establishment of clear communication channels and implementation of incident response guidelines are key to a successful response operation. Members also discussed the emerging use of drones in responding to maritime emergencies. Australia offered to provide a paper to the next session of APHoMSA on complex maritime emergencies.
28. Chile shared information on the functions, SAR operations and training capability of the Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Chile). Members noted the opportunity for technical cooperation and information exchange between SAR organisations.
29. Chile also provided members with an update of the tabletop exercise carried out between MRCC Chile and RCC New Zealand. New Zealand thanked Chile for the close cooperation with regular SAR exercises. Members noted the value of conducting annual exercises between countries with adjacent SAR areas.


## Regional Cooperation

30. Members noted the Secretariat's annual update of technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia Pacific region in 2019. Canada noted an additional item to be added on the training of seafarers operating in polar regions. Members agreed to notify the Secretariat of any particular outcomes they would like included in this resource.
31. Members noted 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.

32. Members noted the recent developments and activities of the Tokyo MOU in 2018, including results of Port State Control inspections in the region. Members thanked the Tokyo MOU for their good work in promoting effective Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific region. Members are encouraged to join the Tokyo MOU if they have not already done so.
33. Members thanked IALA for their update on the strategic goals of IALA, recent activity in the Asia-Pacific region and the change of status project. IALA updated members on the final Diplomatic Conference planned for 2020 where members will be asked to consider supporting IALA's change of status. Members also noted that the IALA General Assembly approved seven new standards in 2018. The standards may be cited in national law and embrace all IALA recommendations and guidelines. Singapore reported on the signing of an MOU with IALA and confirmed funding contributions to assist with capacity building for the Asia Pacific region. IALA encouraged Members to contact the IALA World Wide Academy for assistance if required.
34. Members noted China's update on the comprehensive technical cooperation program conducted in 2018 and agreed to actively participate in relevant regional activities in 2019.
35. SPC updated members on the achievements of the IMO technical cooperation officer for the Pacific. Members noted that the current arrangements only apply to the 2018-19 biennium. Members confirmed the view that the establishment of an official IMO Regional Presence Office in the Pacific is a necessary step to meeting the IMO's commitment to provide particular attention to the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDC). IMO reported that the current arrangements will be reviewed at the next session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee (TC), with a view for continuation of the program.
36. Members congratulated Republic of Korea for the comprehensive technical cooperation program conducted in 2018 and agreed to actively participate in relevant regional activities.
37. Members thanked New Zealand for their on-going support of maritime safety in the Pacific, and noted the close cooperation with SPC and other regional partners.
38. Members thanked Australia for the update on efforts to reform the IMO. Members expressed broad support for the reform initiatives. Members are encouraged to attend the next session of the IMO Working Group on IMO Reform, which will be held during Council in July 2019. Members also noted that Australia will shortly distribute draft proposals to APHoMSA members for comment, and Australia welcomes offers to co-sponsor any proposals.

## Other Business

39. Members agreed to amend the APHoMSA Rule of Procedures so that members and observers will be required to submit papers 28 days prior to future sessions of APHoMSA. Members noted that the number of papers has increased substantially and this amendment will allow delegations sufficient time to review the issues and prepare necessary briefing.

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- A silhouette of a lighthouse on a rocky island, with a beam of light shining from its lantern room across the dark blue background.
40. Member's noted Canada's update on preparations for hosting APHoMSA 2020.
  41. Members agreed to:
    - Australia's offer to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of APHoMSA in 2021.
    - Cook Islands offer to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of APHoMSA in 2022.
    - Mongolia's offer to host the 24<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA in 2023.
  42. Members thanked the IMO for their consistent funding support for Pacific Island Member States to attend APHoMSA, and noted that APHoMSA provides the only regular forum for Pacific Islands Member States to discuss their unique maritime needs in a regional Asia Pacific context. Members supported the IMO Secretariat's proposal that funding assistance will be provided to all Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in the region. Members agreed that IMO and the APHoMSA Secretariat will update the Guidelines for Hosting APHoMSA to reflect:
    - that Member States consider the cost of accommodation and transport when selecting a location.
    - that host members consider the possibility of providing in-kind contributions to meet the costs of IMO funded delegates.
    - that IMO sponsored States that are eligible for APHoMSA membership should be invited to each session.
  43. APHoMSA members request the IMO to include attendance at APHoMSA in the biennial ITCP budget.
  44. Members agreed to the 2019 Work Plan which was tabled in support of the APHoMSA Strategy 2014-2020.