

## 21<sup>st</sup> Session of APHoMSA

### Outcome Statement

1. The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was remotely hosted by Australia from 18 to 20 May 2021. The meeting was opened by Mr Kitak Lim, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) via a video recorded message. The meeting was Chaired by Mr Mick Kinley, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Maritime Safety Authority.
2. 22 Members were represented: Australia; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji, Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste; United States and Vietnam.
3. Six standing Observers were represented: the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA); the IMO; the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre; the Pacific Community (SPC); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP); and the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MoU).

### Women in Maritime

4. Members noted a report from Papua New Guinea, on behalf of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PACWIMA), on progress made towards gender equality in the Pacific maritime sector. Members welcomed a video profile of Ms Nanise Kabakoro, one of only two women port engineers in Fiji, and release of a new PACWIMA website ([www.pacwima.com](http://www.pacwima.com)). Members also acknowledged the Pacific led 'Day for Women in Maritime' on 18 May and agreed to support efforts for the day to be recognised as an annual event with a similar status to the IMO Day of the Seafarer and World Maritime Day.
5. SPC provided an update on implementation of the Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime, launched in September 2019 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Minister's Meeting in Apia, Samoa. Members noted the priority actions of the strategy, which focuses on collection of reliable and accurate data on women employed in the maritime sector, participation of women in regional meetings and major events, building capacity and training programs, and support of national women in maritime networks. Members were encouraged to complete their own domestic responses to a survey released by IMO and the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA International) in January 2021 aimed at collecting baseline data on the number of women in maritime and oceans fields.

6. Members thanked Indonesia for a report on recent activities of Indonesia's Women in Maritime Chapter. Members agreed to support national and regional networks of women in maritime and encourage collaborative participation by APHoMSA members in promoting gender equality.
7. Members thanked Ms Kalolaine Katoa Mafi, Chief Education Officer with the Ministry of Education and Training Tonga and recent graduate of the World Maritime University, for a presentation on ways to strengthen national maritime education and training systems to increase women's representation in the maritime industry. Members were encouraged to consider scholarly research when developing programs to strengthen representation of women in the sector and agreed to consider the use of indigenous research methodologies to inform a culturally inclusive approach.
8. To conclude the session on Women in Maritime, IMO encouraged members to consider a range of submissions to the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee in September 2021:
  - reports of activities of PACWIMA and other national Women in Maritime organisations and chapters;
  - a proposal seeking support to have 18 May recognised globally as Women in Maritime Day.
9. Papua New Guinea advised the forum that their new National Transport Strategy will include measures to improve opportunities for women in the transport sector. Members congratulated Papua New Guinea and agreed to establish a Correspondence Group to consider opportunities to further development of Women in Maritime programs for the Asia Pacific region. Papua New Guinea agreed to lead the group and report the outcomes to the next session of APHoMSA.

## Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

10. Members noted China's report on measures taken to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on the maritime industry. Members agreed to establish a Correspondence Group to explore opportunities for further cooperation among APHoMSA members. China agreed to lead the group, develop draft Terms of Reference for member consideration, and report the outcomes of the group to the next session of APHoMSA.
11. New Zealand introduced a paper on the use of 'future thinking' tools as a means of making sense of uncertainties generated by COVID-19. Members agreed to New Zealand's proposal to work intersessionally to investigate future thinking tools to identify regional needs and opportunities and create greater regional cooperation between APHoMSA members. New Zealand agreed to lead intersessional discussions and report the outcomes to the next session of APHoMSA.
12. Members welcomed Vietnam's paper on their experiences with conducting port State control (PSC) inspections during COVID-19. Vietnam accepted China's invitation to join the

Correspondence Group to explore opportunities to cooperate on issues such as provision of COVID-19 vaccines to seafarers.

13. Members noted Singapore's paper on the application of remote technology to ensure continuation of PSC inspections during COVID-19. Members were encouraged to see the adoption of similar processes by other States and noted initiatives of the IMO to recognise seafarers as key-workers for the purposes of priority vaccinations. Members agreed that national authorities share details of their own experiences with remote delivery of PSC inspections through the Tokyo MoU to ensure consistency between administrations.
14. Australia provided an update on the work of the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme to progress implementation of the Medium-altitude Earth Orbiting Satellite System for Search and Rescue (MEOSAR system), including introduction of second generation beacons and return link service. Members noted the enhanced capabilities of the Cospas-Sarsat system and the need for administrations to update systems and processes to ensure they will be able to support the new capabilities.
15. Members congratulated Solomon Islands on the establishment of the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) and noted the request for assistance from partner countries and organisations to support the development of areas such as legal drafting, marine pollution prevention and response, PSC and safety of navigation. Singapore, Australia, United States and SPC reaffirmed support for continued provision of capacity building assistance to Solomon Islands.
16. Members thanked SPC for the report on current initiatives to improve safety and energy efficiency on-board ships, highlighting a successful project in Vanuatu which resulted in savings of 87.5% in fuel costs mostly at anchorage. Members acknowledged the capacity of SPC to coordinate projects in the fields of maritime safety and energy efficiency and noted SPC's plans to replicate similar projects with other states in the region subject to funding availability.
17. Members noted China's efforts to improve domestic ferry safety in the Asia Pacific region and agreed to share experiences, challenges and solutions. Members noted the establishment by Republic of Korea of a ferry operation management centre that will monitor domestic ferries in real-time. Republic of Korea agreed to report their experiences of establishing the centre to the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> session of APHoMSA. Members also acknowledged the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee working on measures to improve domestic ferry safety and noted that the establishment of an IMO Correspondence Group will adequately progress this work.
18. Members noted Indonesia's report on recent developments with Indonesia's PSC program and congratulated their efforts on achieving White List status with the Tokyo MoU.
19. Canada provided a report on efforts to promote the safe carriage of cargoes. Members commended Canada for their rigorous cargo inspection regime and noted the partnership between Canada, Australia and Japan to develop a comprehensive safety bulletin reminding masters and shippers of their responsibility for the safe carriage and stowage of cargoes.



20. Members noted a report by the Republic of Korea on the development status of the Asia Pan-Pacific (APP) Web Test-bed. Members noted the offer by Republic of Korea to join discussions on the APPWeb 2<sup>nd</sup> version development and launch.
21. The United States provided an update on US Coast Guard efforts to reduce cybersecurity risks across the Maritime Transportation System. Members noted IALA's focus on cybersecurity and were invited to a planned IALA cybersecurity workshop. Members also noted the IMO's work on cyber risk management and available guidelines on cyber security on board ships and recommendations on cyber resilience.
22. Member's noted Singapore's initiative to establish the Port Authorities Chief Information Officer Cybersecurity Network (PACC-Net), which aims to strengthen cyber resilience among like-minded port authorities. Members noted Singapore's invitation for port authorities to join the PACC-Net. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to circulate contact details for PACC-Net.

## Marine Environment Protection

23. Members noted Canada's efforts to protect the marine environment through the designation of its waters as part of the North American Emission Control Area and the lessons learnt. Australia confirmed it is also exploring the potential impacts of exhaust gas cleaning systems and is undertaking a fuel oil sampling and analysis program. Australia agreed to share the results of this work with Canada.
24. Republic of Korea informed members of plans to establish a Sustainable Maritime Transport Training Programme to support the implementation of the IMO's Greenhouse Gas Strategy by building capacity among developing states. IMO confirmed that an IMO Circular will be issued to selected participants by June 2021.
25. Members thanked the United States for their engagement in supporting the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) and Regional Reception Facility Plan (RRFP). Members noted the importance of Pacific States becoming party to relevant international liability conventions and the need to ensure adequate regional waste reception facilities in the region.
26. Canada encouraged members to consider ratification of the 2010 Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol to ensure that adequate compensation is available in the event of a HNS incident. Members appreciated Canada's leadership on this issue and welcomed Canada's offer to provide technical assistance with the implementation of the Protocol. Canada will provide the APHoMSA Secretariat with details of a suitable contact.
27. IMO introduced a paper on the results of the IMO's Sulphur Monitoring Programme following the global introduction of the 0.50% sulphur limit on 1 January 2020. Members noted that further information can be found in IMO document MEPC 76/5/2.

28. Members noted the Solomon Islands report on response efforts to two recent marine pollution incidents, namely the *MV Solomon Trader* and *MV Quebec*. Members noted the effective engagement of PACPLAN in responding to the *MV Solomon Trader* and again reiterated the importance of Pacific States acceding to relevant liability conventions.
29. Members welcomed Australia's report on the results of a study to quantify the effect of the Port of Newcastle Vessel Arrival System (VAS) on fuel consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from arriving ships. Members noted the results of the study suggest significant reductions in overall voyage speed, waiting times, fuel consumption and GHG emissions. Australia agreed to share the study report with interested APHoMSA members.
30. Canada provided members with an update on the issue of anthropogenic underwater vessel noise and highlighted Canada's contributions to advancing international technical knowledge on some tested solutions to reduce underwater vessel noise. Members also noted Canada's proposals to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee.

## Maritime Incident Response

31. Members noted the US report of the positive outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> biannual Pacific Search and Rescue (PACSAR) Workshop, hosted by the US in July 2019. Australia confirmed its role as current Chair of PACSAR and advised that future hosting arrangements for the 9<sup>th</sup> session of PACSAR will be communicated to APHoMSA members soon.
32. Members noted the information provided by the United States on implementation of autonomous distress tracking of aircraft in flight and the need to establish and validate new national and regional practices, procedures and guidance prior to the 1 January 2023 implementation date. Member's also noted that the Bangkok Asia-Pacific office of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is well placed to assist national civil aviation authorities with preparations.
33. Members thanked Papua New Guinea for their update on initiatives taken by the National Maritime Safety Authority to improve maritime safety of small craft within Papua New Guinea. Members applauded the success of the program and noted that many of the initiatives presented in the paper could be considered for use by other states. Members were encouraged to submit proposals on small craft safety to future sessions of APHoMSA.
34. Members noted Australia's paper on efforts to improve complex maritime emergency response capabilities by increasing national and sector awareness and how they may be managed through shared arrangements. Member's noted that Australia has published a handbook for the Australian emergency management and maritime sectors.

## Regional Cooperation

35. Members noted the Secretariat's annual update of technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia Pacific region in 2021. Members agreed to notify the Secretariat of any particular outcomes they would like included in this resource.
36. 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.
37. Members approved the revised APHoMSA Strategy 2020-24.
38. Members noted the IMO's report of the outcomes of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee and continuation of delivery of technical support during the COVID pandemic. Members noted the IMO's capacity to learn from the World Maritime University and International Maritime Law Institute when adapting to remote learning methods. These changes are expected to have long lasting benefits to extend IMO's reach member states.
39. Australia, on behalf of a number of Pacific States and regional organisations, provided an update on recent progress towards establishing an IMO Regional Presence Office for the Pacific. Members noted that Australia will lead a Correspondence Group to finalise a submission to the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee.
40. Members noted the IMO's paper on a new approach to work shadowing and exchange programs as part of the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Program. Members noted IMO's proposal to conduct a pilot program in the Asia-Pacific region before considering expansion to other regions. Members were encouraged to inform the APHoMSA Secretariat should they wish to express interest in participating in the pilot program.
41. Members thanked the IALA World Wide Academy for a report on capacity building activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Members were encouraged to make good use of IALA model courses, conferences and seminars. Members agreed to report to future sessions of APHoMSA on progress made with implementing IALA standards. Members also agreed to consider sponsoring the IALA World-Wide Academy either directly or indirectly.
42. IALA encouraged member states to sign the new Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation as IALA works towards a change of status from a non-governmental organisation (NGO) to an intergovernmental organisation (IGO).
43. Republic of Korea shared with members information on the establishment of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Seafarers Excellence Network (APEC SEN). Members endorsed the inclusion of the APEC SEN Secretariat as a Standing Observer of APHoMSA. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed share information on the activities of APEC SEN on the APHoMSA website. APEC SEN also agreed to submit a paper to the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of APHoMSA on specific proposals for future cooperation.

44. SPC informed members of the latest developments on sustainable maritime transport services and how the sector is contributing to the Blue Pacific vision. Members noted adoption of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* and the essential role maritime transport services play in addressing maritime safety and security and environmental and climate risks in the region. Members noted the outcomes on the 2019 Pacific Regional Transport Ministers' meeting related to community based approach to progressing maritime safety initiatives, setting ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions from domestic shipping, and implementation of pollution prevention plans for the Pacific Islands region.
45. Members thanked ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre for the update on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2020. Members were also informed of improvement to the situation, however, as the threat of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia remains, members were reminded to adopt appropriate precautionary measures.
46. Members supported Fiji's request for funding assistance to provide training and certification services for individual marine surveyors and marine surveying organisations in the Pacific region. US, Canada, Australia and IMO agreed to consider possible assistance options to support Fiji's proposal. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to facilitate further discussion between these countries. Samoa also requested an invitation from Fiji to participate in this training.
47. Members noted two reports from the Tokyo MoU on their recent developments, activities for 2020 – 2021, and planned technical cooperation programs for 2021-2025. Members expressed their appreciation to the Nippon Foundation for their long-standing and continued support of the Tokyo MoU.
48. Members thanked SPC for providing an update on the Pacific MoU on Flag State Implementation. Members supported PNG's proposal to convene a forum with MoU party states to update members on progress of MoU activities. Australia and the US offered to investigate options for possible assistance. SPC confirmed that a steering committee meeting will be held in October 2021.