

23rd Session of APHoMSA

Outcome Statement

1. The 23rd session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was hosted in Sydney, Australia from 5 to 8 June 2023. The meeting was Chaired by Mr Mick Kinley, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and opened by Mr Otgonsuren Damdinsuren, Director General, Mongolia Maritime Administration.
2. 26 countries, including 21 members and five non-APHoMSA observers were represented: Australia; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Nauru; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Timor Leste; Tonga; United States of America; Vietnam; Vanuatu.
3. Nine observer organisations, including six standing observers and three invited observers were represented: the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Seafarer Excellence Network (APEC SEN); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO); the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC); the Pacific Community (SPC); the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MoU), the Center for Ocean Policy and Economics (COPE), the Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA), and the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA Australia).

Women in Maritime

4. Members thanked the IMO for their leadership in furthering gender equality in the maritime industry. Members supported the development of a Global Strategy for Women in Maritime Associations and welcomed confirmation that a draft Strategy will be submitted for consideration to the 73rd session of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee in October 2023. IMO welcomed the support and collaboration of members and observers with regards to data collection, the establishment of clear objectives, outcomes and performance measures.
5. Members noted an update from SPC on progress against the current *Regional Strategy for Women in Maritime 2020-24*, noted the need for funding support of approximately US\$200,000 for the implementation of a new Regional Strategy for 2025-30, and acknowledged the need to align the new Regional Strategy to the broader IMO Strategy.
6. Members noted plans by the Republic of Korea to hold the first Women's Maritime Day Parallel Event on 14 June in Seoul, and invited members interested in Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects to provide IMO with proposals.

7. Fiji provided an update on the activities and challenges of the Women in Maritime Association of Fiji. Fiji agreed to lead the re-establishment of Women in Maritime correspondence group to consider the recommendations presented by Fiji and how they may link to development of the new Regional Strategy. A number of members and observers, including SPC, IMO and WISTA, agreed to participate in the correspondence group.
8. Members supported a proposal by the People's Republic of China to conduct a Women in Maritime Survey and noted the need to involve the APHoMSA Women in Maritime correspondence group to further consider issues associated with development, promulgation, collection, analysis and reporting of data to the Asia Pacific region.
9. Members noted recent activities undertaken by the Women in Maritime Association of Mongolia, and the release of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Toolkit developed by the International Chamber of Shipping.

Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

10. Members noted efforts by the United States Coast Guard to combat sexual misconduct in the maritime industry through mandatory reporting of sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) incidents by mariners. Members also acknowledged work at the IMO to address bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including SASH, under the comprehensive review of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).
11. IMO introduced a short presentation on the 'Adopt a Ship' Program. Members agreed to consider opportunities to support similar programs within their own national jurisdictions.
12. Members acknowledged the need for mandatory training provisions on Psychological Safety, Bullying, SASH and noted the invitation of the Center for Ocean Policy and Economics (COPE) to join a working group focused on addressing these issues. Members agreed to continue to work on establishing international mechanisms, policies and measures to prevent and respond to cases of abuse, bullying and SASH.
13. Republic of Korea shared experiences and lessons learnt from their recent IMO Mandatory Member State Audit (IMSAS). Members supported the Republic of Korea's plan to submit an agenda document to the 9th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III). The APHoMSA secretariat confirmed it intends to investigate improvements to the existing APHoMSA website to help members share information and lessons learnt into the future.
14. Viet Nam updated members on implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), noting challenges associated with attraction, retention and training of seafarers.
15. Members noted the work of Viet Nam to modernise aids to navigation systems in North and Central Viet Nam, in particular the use of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) to complement

physical aids to navigation.

16. People's Republic of China shared safety insights from a ship collision incident and investigation in 2019 and encouraged the use of technology in incident investigations. Members were urged to strengthen traffic monitoring in busy waters, enhance crew training and encourage the use of case-based educational campaigns to ensure safe navigation. Members noted Canada's experience with the use of compulsory pilotage zones to mitigate the risks to navigational safety in areas with heavy marine traffic.
17. Members also noted information about supervision of Dangerous Goods shared by the People's Republic of China and agreed to continue to share relevant experience for future cooperation.
18. Members supported the endorsement of the *Regional Strategy for Safety of Navigation 2023-2027* by the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting in May 2023. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) confirmed support to SPC and members to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.
19. Members noted the efforts of Singapore in using advanced technologies such as the integrated port operations C3 system to protect the marine environment and promote safety at sea through improvements to incident management and safety enforcement practices. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to further investigate capabilities for the forum to better share information relating to data and analytics. Singapore agreed to provide an update on this issue to the next APHoMSA session.
20. United States Coast Guard provided an overview of their approach to cyber risk management and how relationships are leveraged to protect the Marine Transport System (MTS) from cyber threats. Members agreed on the importance of information sharing and developing shared responsibility and accountability between government and industry.
21. Members noted the Solomon Islands update on its efforts and challenges to digitalise safety of navigation. Australia confirmed a willingness to discuss digitalisation projects with Solomon Islands to identify opportunities for regional harmonisation.
22. Members noted Indonesia's development of a new vessel monitoring web application I-MOTION integrating various information sources to enhance security, safety of navigation and marine environment protection.
23. United States Coast Guard emphasised the importance of early mitigation measures when managing multiple competing demands for waterway use to ensure safe and reliable access to ports and reduced risk of maritime accidents. Members were encouraged to share information and experiences and agreed to consider proactive measures to prioritise safety of navigation when considering responsible waterway management.
24. Papua New Guinea provided an overview of efforts to use simulators to address capacity gaps for port and flag state inspector training, and training of engineering examiners. Papua New

Guinea acknowledged the support provided by the Republic of Korea in procuring the engine room simulator. Members applauded the efforts of Papua New Guinea and agreed to consider further support of capacity building assistance needs for the region. Members were encouraged to leverage the planned capabilities of the soon-to-be-established IMO Regional Presence Office for the Pacific to centralise information and coordinate the provision of assistance, and consider sharing the use of simulators, noting they are expensive to procure and maintain.

Marine Environment Protection

25. IMO provided an update on the latest developments on the various Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions work since the last session of APHoMSA. Members noted the further consideration of mid-term measures by the 79th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and Intersessional Working Group – GHG 14 (ISWG-GHG 14), and the agreement of a draft revised GHG strategy with a view to adoption of the *2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships* by MEPC 80. Members confirmed the importance of being ambitious in the revised strategy to ensure it sends a clear message that will decarbonise the maritime sector by 2050 to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.
26. Members noted the adoption of the *Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050 Recognition Framework* by the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting and agreed to commit to the resourcing and implementation of the recognition framework.
27. Members applauded the efforts of the Republic of Korea in the area of decarbonisation and noted the update on the *Seoul Declaration* regarding the climate crisis, to be adopted at the 2023 Korea Maritime Week and Ministerial Conference from 14 to 16 June 2023.
28. Solomon Islands provided an update on their work to improve the safety and operational efficiency of domestic ships, relating to green shipping. Members noted the IMO's update on a new project aimed at developing decarbonisation baseline training material to assist Maritime Education and Training institutions to facilitate the training of seafarers, which will be executed in collaboration with the Maritime Just Transition Task Force and with the engagement of the World Maritime University and MTCC-Asia. Members also noted SPC's report on the Pacific Islands Domestic Ship Safety Program with the integration of SEEMP and the MTCC-Pacific.
29. Australia updated members on key initiatives that will play a role in the decarbonisation of the Australian shipping industry. Members noted the strong interest from the Australian maritime industry in biofuels, the agreement with Singapore on the establishment of a green and digital shipping corridor, and the work of IHO on studies that indicate emission reductions through route planning based on high density bathymetry and current data. Australia and IHO agreed to share further information with members.
30. Members noted Mongolia's update on domestic efforts to protect the maritime environment and supported the need to consider challenges faced by landlocked states. Members agreed to

consider opportunities to support technical cooperation initiatives relating to inland waterways.

31. Members noted the experiences of Timor-Leste in establishing a National Contingency Plan for oil spills. Australia confirmed it would be pleased to invite Timor Leste to participate in future training opportunities. IMO also confirmed support to Timor Leste through technical cooperation activities under the OPRC convention.

Maritime Incident Response

32. Members commended Australia, IMO and SPC for hosting the 9th Pacific Regional Search and Rescue (PacSAR) workshop in Cairns, Australia from 27 February to 3 March 2023, and agreed to consider opportunities to implement the outcomes of the workshop.
33. Chile updated members on their experiences responding to a search and rescue incident involving the Japanese flag fishing vessel *Kotoshiro Maru 18*. Members confirmed the importance of sharing contacts and providing mutual assistance to maritime incidents in the Pacific, and highlighted the capacity of PacSAR to identify strengths and weaknesses and share contact details amongst participating states. People's Republic of China expressed thanks to those who assisted with the recent multinational search for the loss of persons onboard the Chinese fishing vessel *Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028* - an example of partners in the Indo-Pacific region working together to keep our seas safer.
34. Members noted the experiences and lessons learnt by the Republic of Korea from a marine safety investigation of the bulk carrier *ENY*. Republic of Korea confirmed intentions to submit a paper to the 9th session of the IMO sub-committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III). Members were invited to provide feedback on the paper.
35. Members noted Australia's participation in the world-wide VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) trial and noted the interest of a number of states to participate in the trial. The APHoMSA Secretariat confirmed that advice and guidance will be sought from members on how best to collaborate and engage further in the trial.
36. Members noted New Caledonia's successful removal of the *MV Kea Trader* from Durand Reef. Members were encouraged to participate in IMO III sub-committee where casualty reports are considered. IMO also confirmed Australia and Singapore is developing, in cooperation with IMO, a regional training program on maritime casualty investigations.

Regional Cooperation

37. APHoMSA Secretariat provided members an update on the Technical Cooperation Activities in the Asia-Pacific. Members noted the information and agreed to provide updates to the Secretariat.
38. APHoMSA Secretariat also provided members with an annual update on the outcomes of International and Regional Organisations. Members noted the information and agreed to

inform the Secretariat of further outcomes for inclusion.

39. Members welcomed the update from the IMO on the ongoing efforts to establish the IMO Regional Presence Office (RPO) for the Pacific Region. Members noted the 5th Regional Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting welcomed the establishment of the RPO and confirmed SPC's intention to continue to support the housing of the RPO at SPC offices in Suva, Fiji. Australia and New Zealand highlighted the important opportunity offered by the RPO to deliver targeted technical assistance to the Pacific region.
40. Members noted agreement by the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting to develop one-maritime framework, incorporating the development of a new Blue Pacific Strategy for Maritime and the Pacific Regional Strategy for Technical Cooperation, driven by the Member States, to guide future technical assistance by the IMO and the regional organisations. SPC welcomed financial contributions to support the development of the revised framework.
41. Members acknowledged SPC as the lead technical organisation in the Pacific region, with the mandate to support the maritime sector and a provider of sustainable maritime transport (SMART) services to members in the Blue Pacific region. The meeting urged members and partners to consider providing essential funding to SPC to fulfil its regional role and to provide complementary assistance in the areas of legal drafting, safety and energy management on board domestic vessels. Members agreed to support technical assistance efforts and work collaboratively with SPC on needs in the region.
42. SPC updated members on the outcomes of the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting 2023. Members committed to supporting the implementation of the key priorities as agreed by the Ministers and to strengthening coordination of Pacific Islands Countries' maritime administrations and their partners in the region.
43. Members noted the update from the Tokyo MOU on activities conducted in 2022 and agreed that APHoMSA members who are also members of the Tokyo MOU would consider the feasibility of extending technical cooperation to members to include flag state implementation and oversight of recognised organisations. Members noted the 34th Committee Meeting of the Tokyo MOU, which will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of signing of the Memorandum, will be held in Yokohama from 30 October to 2 November 2023. Members also confirmed appreciation of the long-standing contribution of the Nippon Foundation.
44. Members acknowledged the successful completion by APEC SEN of the Global Maritime Leadership Program to foster development of emerging leaders. Members confirmed support for the delivery of on-going programs and agreed to consider opportunities to contribute to future sessions. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to share information of future APEC SEN programs with members.
45. Members built consensus to continue the expansion and evolution of the Republic of Korea's Global On-Board Training program for fostering competent young seafarers.

46. Members noted the update from the Republic of Korea regarding Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects in collaboration with IMO and applauded the Republic of Korea on their contribution to the region. Members interested in any ODA projects were invited to provide proposals to IMO.
47. Members acknowledged the importance of finding solutions to 'wicked' problems relating to human rights violations, microplastics, waste products, and illicit maritime transport activities. Members welcomed the opportunity to join the work of COPE in influencing change.
48. Members noted the People's Republic of China's experience in maritime supervision and service of offshore wind farms and agreed to share experiences and best practices with members intersessionally and to the next session of APHoMSA.
49. Members also noted the People's Republic of China's suggestions to improve maritime management in the Asia-Pacific based on their experience responding to the pandemic and agreed to share experiences and best practices.
50. Republic of Korea updated members on activities to enhance cooperation for maritime digitalisation and invited members to consider attendance at the 7th Asia-Pacific Digital@Sea Conference in Seoul from 12-13 September 2023.
51. ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) updated members on incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2022 and their efforts to enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. Singapore and Indonesia commended the role played by ReCAAP in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in the region.
52. Members noted updates from Mongolia on its actions following the IMSAS Audit in 2016. Members again confirmed support for landlocked states and agreed to consider opportunities for technical assistance.
53. Members supported the re-launch of the Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA) following a resolution of the 17th PacMA General Meeting on 19 May 2023 and urged development partners and financial donors to support the association in its efforts to respond to the needs of its members.
54. The APHoMSA Secretariat called for nominations to host the future sessions of APHoMSA in 2024 and 2025. People's Republic of China expressed its intention to host the APHoMSA forum in 2024, subject to confirmation. Members were encouraged to notify the Secretariat should they be interested in hosting any future sessions of APHoMSA.
55. Members approved the membership of Samoa to APHoMSA. Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tonga also expressed an interest to notify the Secretariat of their intention to join the membership of APHoMSA.