

16<sup>th</sup> Session

Distributed: 29 April 2015

## Outcome Statement

### Introduction

1. The Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum convened its 16<sup>th</sup> session from 21 to 23 April in Shenzhen, China, hosted by the China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA). The meeting was opened by Captain Chen Aiping, Director General, China MSA. Mr Zheng Heping, Deputy Director General, China MSA, closed the meeting.
2. Fifteen Members were represented. They were: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Fiji; Hong Kong; China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Solomon Islands, and Vietnam.
3. Four standing Observer organisations were represented. They were: the International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA); ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), and Secretariat of the Tokyo MoU.
4. Members acknowledged the attendance of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr Koji Sekimizu, who presented a keynote address. Mr Sekimizu highlighted the need to address the large number of casualties that continue to occur at sea.

### Administrative Arrangements

5. Participants acknowledged that Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu had accepted offers to become formal Members of APHoMSA, and that there are now 23 members of APHoMSA. Participants also acknowledged that the Tokyo MoU Secretariat had become a Standing Observer to APHoMSA.
6. Members recalled that at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA, the Rules of Procedure and the APHoMSA Strategy 2014-2020 were adopted. Members also recalled the intersessional finalisation of the Guidelines for Hosting APHoMSA.
7. Intersessional APHoMSA Secretariat papers between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> sessions were noted and the Secretariat thanked Members for their input. These included papers on Maritime Safety Programmes in the Pacific and the Torres Strait and a paper on the benefit of completing IMO Country Profiles.



8. Members agreed that the continued development of APHoMSA is pleasing and that the forum is well placed to develop regional agreements and an increasingly regional approach to maritime issues of interest in the Asia-Pacific.

## Domestic Passenger Ship Safety

9. Members noted the importance of domestic passenger ship safety in the Asia-Pacific region given its use as a primary mode of transport.
10. Members noted information provided by Solomon Islands and China regarding their individual experiences with domestic passenger ship safety within their maritime administrations, and agreed that these examples highlighted the work that the IMO was hoping to achieve.
11. The IMO reinforced its support for APHoMSA in its efforts to improve cooperative means to address domestic passenger ship safety in the Asia Pacific region.

## Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

12. Members noted the information provided by China on the status and development of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and its potential application in the maritime field.
13. Members noted the Chilean use of the Maritime Graphic Information System, GRAFIMAR.
14. Members noted the importance of international consistency in the implementation of e-navigation solutions and agreed to consider providing submissions to the IMO to help successful delivery of the six proposed outputs identified for the IMO to progress in coming years. Members agreed to seek opportunities for collaboration and mutual assistance with regards to e-navigation.
15. Members appreciated Solomon Islands sharing its experiences with developing a maritime safety administration in a Pacific Island nation. Fiji offered to provide Solomon Islands advice and information on Fiji's approach to implementation of domestic laws, which was accepted.
16. Members noted the establishment of IMO recommendatory two-way route through Jomard Passage in Papua New Guinea's waters and agreed that this measure will improve the safety of shipping and protection of the marine environment. Members supported Papua New Guinea's plans to submit a proposal to the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee seeking to establish a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the southern waters of Milne Bay Province.
17. Members noted the lessons that Australia had learnt during its implementation and enforcement of the *International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code* (IMSBC Code). Members agreed to share experiences of implementation and consider a joint submission to the IMO.
18. Members noted the recommendations in the Fisher Report regarding Human Resource Development in the Maritime Sector in the Asia-Pacific.



## Maritime Incident Response


19. Members noted the implementation timetable of the Medium-Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) system ground segment for Hong Kong, China.
20. Members noted the information provided by the Philippines regarding its protocol for Regional Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, particularly how this protocol was enacted during Typhoon Yolanda.
21. Members noted the developments in Maritime Incident Response Planning and Preparation in New Zealand following the grounding of the *MV Rena* in October 2011.

## Protecting the Marine Environment

22. Members supported Australia's submission to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee to extend its existing Great Barrier Reef/Torres Strait PSSA to the South West Coral Sea.
23. Members noted Malaysia's proposal to establish an IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the Southern parts of the Straits of Malacca and the submission of an information paper on this topic to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee.
24. Members noted Vietnam's implementation for international environmental conventions of the IMO. Members agreed information exchange on implementation of conventions remained an important priority in the region and would increase efforts in this regard.

## Regional Cooperation

25. Members noted the technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia-Pacific region by the IMO, the IALA World Wide Academy, the IHO and the Tokyo MoU Secretariat. Members and Observers noted the Secretariat's continued intent to provide an update of these activities biannually.
26. Members acknowledged China's progress on technical cooperation, the initiative of 'One Belt, One Road', and welcomed their aspirations to continue this cooperation with a broad range of parties.
27. Members acknowledged an update by the ReCAAP ISC of the current situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and the activities being conducted by the ISC to distribute information globally.
28. Members agreed to request technical assistance from the IMO if necessary to assist with preparation and conduct of mandatory audits, to notify the IMO if there are qualified IMSAS auditors within their administrations that have not yet been nominated to participate in the scheme and to fully implement any required administrative changes to facilitate transition to the mandatory scheme.

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29. Members requested the Secretariat identify ways APHoMSA Members and Observers could support and assist each other with regards to upcoming mandatory IMO audits.
  30. The Tokyo MoU Secretariat introduced themselves to Members as the newest standing Observer organisation of APHoMSA, outlining the organisation's aim to promote regional cooperation on port State control.
  31. The IMO acknowledged the importance of APHoMSA as a useful forum to continue discussions on developing and establishing an IMO Action Plan to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, which was agreed at the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Members agreed to provide the IMO with information on the technical cooperation needs, including through the Country Maritime Profile.
  32. Members noted the work of Singapore in cooperation with the littoral States of Indonesia and Malaysia on the establishment of a Marine Electronic Highway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

## Other Business

33. Members agreed that the Secretariat will provide an annual update of relevant outcomes from key meetings of international and regional organisations relating to the APHoMSA pillars at future sessions of APHoMSA. Members and Observers also agreed they would notify the Secretariat should there be a particular decision they would like included in the proposed update, and facilitate information flow to and from APHoMSA.
34. Members agreed to the adoption of a Work Plan in support of the APHoMSA Strategy 2014-2020 and that the Work Plan should be tabled at each meeting of APHoMSA for consideration in parallel with the Outcome Statement.
35. Members agreed that Malaysia would host the 18<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA to be held in 2017 in Langkawi.
36. Members noted the information provided by New Zealand on the 17<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA to be held from 14-18 March 2016 in Queenstown. New Zealand will discuss with the Secretariat the possibility of holding a workshop preceding the session to explore an issue of regional importance in detail.
37. Members and Observers thanked the Host nation, China, for the excellent arrangements and choice of venue for the 16<sup>th</sup> session of APHoMSA.