

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE ELECTRONIC HIGHWAY (MEH) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE STRAIT

Submitted by IMO

Introduction

1. The Marine Electronic Highway Project (MEH) in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore is one form of multilateral cooperation among littoral States and other international organization. Efforts to form international cooperation gained momentum with the agreements to cooperate and collaborate to implement the MEH Project signed in Jakarta on the 8th September 2005. Signatories to those agreements included the three (3) littoral States, IMO, the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). The Parties to the relevant associated MoU's signed in 2006 provide considerable in-kind contribution to facilitate implementation of the projects which is mainly funded by the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank. Further funding has been provided by the Republic of Korea.

2. MEH implementation objectively will increase the safety and efficiency of marine transport through the Straits, reducing the negative environmental impacts of shipping and coastal activities, and strengthening conservation and management of neighboring marine and coastal environments. The MEH will achieve these objectives by:

- 2.1. Preventing ship collisions in the Straits;
- 2.2. Making marine navigation in the Straits safer and more efficient particularly in adverse weather conditions;
- 2.3. Tracking and monitoring illegal operations and discharges by vessels (e.g unauthorized bilge water releases), with benefits for the management and protection of marine and coastal resources in the Straits; and
- 2.4. Testing the feasibility of an MEH fund that would finance the system and support coastal and marine resource conservation and management in the Straits area.

3. The meeting will be updated on recent developments and implementation of the MEH Demonstration Project. The details of the associated power point presentation are set out in Annex.

Action requested of the Committee

4. The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and decide as it may deem appropriate.