

5th Co-operation Forum under the
Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection
in the
Straits of Malacca and Singapore
24-25 September 2012

**5th CO-OPERATION FORUM,
CO-OPERATIVE MECHANISM ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND
SINGAPORE
GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT HOTEL, SINGAPORE
24 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2012**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

SESSION 1: OPENING CEREMONY AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 The 5th Co-operation Forum (the Forum) was officially opened by Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport, Singapore. Minister Lui noted the good progress of the Co-operative Mechanism. Minister Lui reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to supporting the Marine Electronic Highway project.

1.2 The Heads of Delegation of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (the littoral States) reiterated the importance of the Co-operation Forum in bringing together all stakeholders to exchange views and ideas on navigational safety and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Straits).

1.3 The speeches delivered by Minister Lui and the Heads of Delegation of the littoral States are in Annex I.

1.4 The Forum witnessed the signing of the Letters of Acknowledgment by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore Regarding Co-operation to Achieve Institutional Sustainability of the Marine Electronic Highway through the Tripartite Technical Experts Group and Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

1.5 China and Japan delivered general remarks reaffirming their commitment to the Co-operative Mechanism.

1.6 The provisional agenda of the Forum was adopted. The agenda is in Annex II.

1.7 The list of participants to the Forum is in Annex III.

SESSION 2: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CO-OPERATIVE MECHANISM

2.1 Session 2 on “Developments in the Co-operative Mechanism and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore” was chaired by Mr Lam Yi Young, Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

Co-operative Mechanism and the Straits

2.2 The Forum noted the following presentations:

2.2.1 Update on the Aids to Navigation Fund (ANF)

2.2.2 Update on Straits Projects

2.2.3 Updates on IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Trust Fund

2.2.4 Users’ Point of View by MLIT, Japan, ICS and Nippon Foundation

2.3 On behalf of the littoral States, the Chairman thanked those States and industry stakeholders that had contributed to the ANF, and encouraged similar contributions from other States and stakeholders present. The Chairman also thanked those States that had contributed towards the good progress of the Straits Projects.

2.4 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) reaffirmed its support for the Co-operative Mechanism and stated that the IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Trust Fund was complementary to funds that were established by the littoral States for projects on aids to navigation in the Straits. The littoral States and the IMO agreed to the extension of the Joint Technical Arrangement (JTA) for another three years.

2.5 The Forum noted the importance of close consultation between the littoral States, user States and industry stakeholders when developing initiatives for the Straits. Some delegations shared their concerns that seafarers needed adequate training and awareness, as well as improvements to nautical charts and better information flow from shore to seafarers, to minimise incidents at sea.

Marine Electronic Highway (MEH)

2.6 The Forum noted the following presentations:

2.6.1 Overview of the MEH

2.6.2 MEH Data Centre

2.7 The Forum noted Indonesia's proposal that the Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG) take over the role of the MEH Project Steering Committee after the conclusion of the MEH demonstration project in December 2012.

Straits Project 4 – Setting up a Tide, Current and Wind Measurement System for the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits to Enhance Navigation Safety and Marine Environmental Protection

2.8 The Forum noted the presentation updating on Straits Project 4.

2.9 On behalf of the littoral States, the Chairman presented tokens of appreciation to China and India in recognition of their assistance and contribution to Straits Project 4 "Setting up a Tide, Current and Wind Measurement System for the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits to Enhance Navigation and Marine Environmental Protection".

SESSION 3: FUTURE OF THE MARINE ELECTRONIC HIGHWAY

3.1 Session 3 of the Forum on the "Future of the Marine Electronic Highway (MEH)" was chaired by Capt M Segar, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

3.2 The session commenced with a live presentation of the MEH website and its functions by the IMO.

3.3 The Forum noted the presentation "Synergies between MEH and E-Navigation". A summary of the Norwegian Coastal Administration's presentation is in Annex IV.

Panel Discussion on the Marine Electronic Highway (MEH)

3.4 The panel discussion was chaired by Capt M Segar. The panellists included Datuk Raja Malik (Project Manager, MEH Demonstration Project, IMO), Mr John Erik Hagen (Regional Director, Norwegian Coastal Administration), Mr Tofan Rindoyo (Head of Operation, Sub Directorate of Marine Telecommunication, Directorate of Navigation, Directorate General of Sea Transportation) and Mr Arumugan a/l Subramaniam (Principal Assistant Director, Marine Department Malaysia).

3.5 The Forum noted that one of the original objectives of the MEH was to provide large scale electronic navigational charts and would need to be continued in the future. The Forum noted Malaysia and Singapore were developing backup data centres for the MEH Project.

3.6 The Forum agreed on the need to work closely with one another to further advance and scale-up the MEH. The meeting agreed that while there was a need to examine how information could be transmitted from shore to ship, it was important to first discuss and agree on the functionalities of the MEH. Another issue that needs to be further discussed is the future funding for MEH.

3.7 The Forum noted that the MEH could be useful in monitoring real-time Under Keel Clearance.

3.8 The Forum agreed that the littoral States would work with interested stakeholders to further consider the above issues.

SESSION 4: NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

4.1 Session 4 of the Forum on the “Future of the Marine Electronic Highway” was chaired by Capt M Segar, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

4.2 The Forum noted the following presentations:

4.2.1 Straits Project 5 – Replacement and Maintenance of Aids to Navigation in Straits of Malacca and Singapore

4.2.2 Straits Project 6 – Replacement of Aids to Navigation Damaged by the Tsunami Incident of 2004

4.2.3 Future of Aids to Navigation

4.2.4 Straits Project 1 – Removal of Wrecks in the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

4.2.5 Straits Project 7 – Feasibility Study on Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) Service in Straits

4.2.6 Utilising AIS to Analyse the Ship Domain Theory

4.2.7 Safe Passage Pamphlet

4.2.8 Review and Enhancement of Measures Implemented in Straits – Analysis of Marine Casualties

4.3 Germany informed the Forum that it pledged to contribute 20,000 EUR to the IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Trust Fund. The Chairman thanked Germany on behalf of the littoral States.

Panel Discussion on Straits Projects and Navigational Safety

4.4 The panel discussion was chaired by Capt M Segar. The panellists included Mr Aron Frank Sorensen (Chief Marine Technical Officer, BIMCO), Mr Gary Prosser (Secretary General, IALA) and Mr John Murray (Director Marine, ICS).

4.5 The Forum agreed that BIMCO's proposal on the "Safe Passage Pamphlet" would be useful in further enhancing safety of navigation through the Straits. A correspondence group will be formed to develop the content of the Pamphlet, and the pamphlet could be launched at the 6th Co-operation Forum in 2013.

4.6 The Forum noted that the littoral States had in place various mechanisms and infrastructures to ensure safety of navigation through the Straits and agreed that the littoral States, user States and key stakeholders would continue to work together to further enhance navigational safety in the Straits. Some areas for further improvement include communications between vessel traffic service (VTS) operators and ships, training for crew and utilisation of risk management tools.

4.7 The Forum agreed that these issues would be further discussed at the 37th TTEG Meeting.

SESSION 5: MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

5.1 Session 5 of the Forum on "Marine Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore" was chaired by Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Senior Specialist Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

5.2 The Forum noted the following presentations:

5.2.1 IMO's Overview of Sustainable Maritime Development

5.2.2 Maersk's Perspective on Corporate Social Responsibility from an Environmental Perspective

5.2.3 Straits Project 2: Co-operation and Capacity Building on Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) Preparedness and Response in the Straits

5.2.4 Updates on INTERTANKO's Development of a Port Reception Facilities Directory

5.2.5 Malaysia's Perspective on the Ballast Water Management Convention

5.2.6 A Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey

5.2.7 An Assessment of Coastal Biodiversity Recovery from the MT BUNGA KELANA 3 / MV WAILY Collision

5.3 The Chairman noted that the IMO's presentation on Sustainable Maritime Development would provide useful guidance to the session's proceedings.

5.4 The Chairman noted the potential positive impact of slow steaming on the marine environment, particularly in a sea lane with high marine traffic such as the Straits. The Chairman further noted that this issue could be further discussed during the panel session.

Panel Discussion on Marine Environmental Protection

5.5 The panel discussion was chaired by Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Senior Specialist Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. The panellists included Mr Ashok Mahapatra (Senior Deputy Director Maritime Safety Division, IMO), Mr Tim Wilkins (Regional Manager (Asia Pacific), INTERTANKO), Capt Mohamed Halim Ahmed (Senior Principal Assistant Director, Marine Department Malaysia) and Mr Jeffrey Low (Senior Manager (Biodiversity), NParks Singapore).

5.6 The Forum noted that while shipping is one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transport, the maritime sector has a key role to play in supporting sustainable development and promoting the "green economy". The Forum agreed to work together to contribute towards sustainable and healthy oceans, in particular in a high intensity shipping route like the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

5.7 The Forum noted that some possible areas that the Co-operative Mechanism could undertake to further enhance environmental protection in the Straits included waste management, bio-fouling, raising environmental awareness among crew, such as through the provision to ships posters depicting environmental protection, etc. The Forum agreed to explore the potential of just-in-time vessel arrivals to allow slow steaming which would be more fuel-efficient and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from ships. The Forum also agreed to explore how the MEH project could enhance crew awareness of marine sensitive areas in the Straits.

5.8 The Forum agreed on the need to adopt a proactive and consultative approach in addressing environmental-related issues, and to consider profiling the work done by the Co-operative Mechanism through social media.

5.9 The Forum agreed that these issues would be further discussed at the 37th TTEG Meeting.

SESSION 6: CLOSING SESSION

6.1 The meeting considered and adopted the report of the Meeting.

Closing of the Forum

6.2 The Chairman thanked all delegations for their positive contributions and support for making the 5th Co-operation Forum a success.

6.3 The 6th Co-operation Forum will be held in Indonesia in 2013, with the details on the date and venue to be communicated at a later date.

List of Annexes

Annex I - Speeches delivered by Minister Lui and the Heads of Delegation of the littoral States at the Opening Ceremony of the 5th Co-operation Forum

Annex II - 5th Co-operation Forum Agenda

Annex III - List of participants to the 5th Co-operation Forum

Annex IV - Summary of the Norwegian Coastal Administration's Presentation on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore Regional Sea Traffic Sea Management Strategy