



Sydney 2009 Statement Asia Pacific Heads of Marine Safety Agencies Forum

A strategic approach to regional cooperation - maritime safety, security, marine environment protection and search and rescue

From 31 May to 3 June 2009, maritime safety regulators from 29 countries around the Asia Pacific region met in Sydney, Australia and reaffirmed the importance of working together to strengthen maritime safety, security, marine environment protection and search and rescue capacity building activities and information sharing.

The meeting was held at a time when the maritime industry and regulators world wide face considerable challenges stemming from the global economic situation. The meeting:

1. Reaffirmed the vital importance of the maritime industry to the Asia Pacific region, which is home to some 2.6 billion people and accounts for almost half of the world's trade.
2. Noted the importance of the adoption, effective implementation and enforcement across the region of existing IMO instruments addressing safety, security and environmental standards and active participation in the development of new or amended international standards.
3. Recognised, however, the constraints faced by many countries in the region in effectively implementing the range of existing instruments and keeping pace with new or amended developments in international maritime standards.
4. Noted that capacity building and training of maritime personnel are vital components in ensuring an effective international maritime regime and acknowledged the contributions of the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme to further enhance capacity building efforts for the maritime administrations of developing nations.
5. Stressed the ongoing need to address capacity constraints in order to provide for sufficient human and institutional resources to ensure appropriate ship safety, security and environmental protection in the Asia Pacific region.
6. Welcomed the extent to which countries, regional and international organisations are already working in partnership on various capacity building initiatives.

7. Acknowledged the need to continue to work closely together in the IMO and other relevant organisations to improve maritime safety and protection of the environment in the Antarctic.
8. Acknowledged the important progress made by IALA members towards secure sharing of AIS data through IALA-NET and encouraged countries to consider participation in the scheme.
9. Underlined the importance of working closely together to avoid loss of life at sea and in all areas of the maritime industry.
10. Recognised the human element on board ship and encouraged countries to respect the IMO and ILO "Guidelines on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Marine Accident" and encouraged regional cooperation with regards to the conditions of work for seafarers.
11. Recognised the crucial role of international cooperation and effective information sharing in addressing the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and commended the efforts taken by the IMO and the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).
12. Noted the importance of working together to develop maritime domain awareness to help improve safety, security and protection of the marine environment.
13. Recognised that cooperative strategies focused on maritime safety must also consider aspects of security, environmental stewardship and economy.
14. Agreed that the APHoMSA forum was a useful way of sharing experiences and addressing future issues at both a regional and global level; and noted the bilateral and other opportunities afforded in the margins of the APHoMSA meeting.
15. Resolved to meet regularly – not less than biennially, and welcomed the kind offer by the Philippines to host the next APHoMSA meeting in April 2010 and offers to host future meetings by the Republic of Korea in March 2011 and Vietnam in November 2012.
16. Noted and thanked Australia for its offer to host an APHoMSA web site and provide Secretariat support for this forum for the next three meetings.



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Mr Graham Peachey
Meeting Chair

2 June 2009



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Commodore Luis Tuason Jr
Vice Chair

June 2009