

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of APHoMSA

### Outcome Statement

1. The 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was remotely hosted by Cook Islands from 26 to 28 July 2022. The meeting was opened by Mr Kitak Lim, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) via a video recorded message. The meeting was Chaired by Mr John Hosking, Secretary of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Cook Islands.
2. 22 Members were represented: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Mongolia; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Timor Leste; Tuvalu; United States of American; Vietnam; Vanuatu.
3. Seven standing Observers were represented: the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Seafarer Excellence Network (APEC SEN); the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA); the IMO; the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC); the Pacific Community (SPC); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP); and the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MoU).

### Women in Maritime

4. Members noted a report from Papua New Guinea, on behalf of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PACWIMA), on progress made championing an International Day for Women in Maritime at the IMO. Following the Pacific-led Day for Women in Maritime on 18 May 2021, the IMO permanently established 18 May as the International Day for Women in Maritime through adoption of IMO Assembly Resolution A.1170(32).
5. Members noted an update from Papua New Guinea on the Correspondence Group on opportunities to further the development of Women in Maritime in the Asia-Pacific Region. Members noted the continuing challenges facing women in the maritime sector and supported the continuation of the Correspondence Group to further develop concepts/programs to support Women in Maritime, drawing upon many of the initiatives discussed during this forum as guidance for the Group.
6. Members noted a report from the United States on actions taken to create a safe working environment for female mariners following an incident in 2019 of sexual harassment and assault. Australia highlighted the role Port States play to support women seafarers and the need to intervene when necessary. Members thanked the United States for taking strong steps on this matter and agreed to encourage reporting of sexual harassment and assault and to promote a safe and secure work environment for women in the maritime industry.
7. SPC provided an update on implementation of the *Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in*

*Maritime 2020-2024*. Members noted the pandemic had caused delays in implementation of the strategy. Members noted the value of affinity groups (for gender and other areas of diversity) within organisations and thanked SPC for their work and support. Members also noted the upcoming SPC- and IMO-led Women in Maritime Conference, to be held in Cairns, Australia from 10 to 14 October 2022. Members agreed APHoMSA will continue to support regional networks of women in maritime.

8. Australia introduced its first *Gender Equity Action Plan*, which establishes a clear pathway for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to achieve gender equity. The Plan was launched on 18 May to coincide with the IMO International Day for Women in Maritime. Members noted Australia's offer to share the full Gender Equity Action Plan with APHoMSA members and observers. Members also agreed to work together to further explore opportunities to identify and address systemic barriers that prevent women from progressing in the maritime industry.
9. APEC SEN introduced a proposal to establish a course to provide training and mentorship for women leaders in maritime in the Asia-Pacific. Members agreed to support APEC SEN in the establishment of such a course and consider ways to support the program, recognising that a regular collaborative course could benefit women leaders in the maritime industry, with similar training to be conducted for the Pacific region.
10. Members noted the newly formed Women in Maritime Association in the Republic of Korea (WIMA-Korea), which was established on 2 May 2022. WIMA-Korea joins 7 other IMO-supported WIMAs in Asia and the Pacific region, forming a network among women in the maritime field with the purpose of sharing information, and strengthening their capabilities.
11. Members noted Timor-Leste's paper on the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Women in Maritime Association of Timor-Leste.

## Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

12. Members noted an update from the People's Republic of China on the Correspondence Group on responding to the challenges posted by COVID-19 pandemic. The Group shared information covering a range of areas of maritime operations which were impacted by COVID-19, including extension of the validity of seafarer certificates, seafarer welfare, remote inspection techniques, a decrease in the number of seafarers during the pandemic, and maritime supply chain issues. Members agreed that the Correspondence Group be closed.
13. The People's Republic of China provided an update on the Correspondence Group on the Safe Carriage of Cargoes. The Group shared views on the carriage of cargoes, identified and discussed questions and difficulties implementing IMO requirements on carriage of cargoes, and discussed arrangements for the carriage of new cargoes. Members agreed that the Correspondence Group be closed.
14. Members noted an update from the People's Republic of China on the Correspondence Group on Implementation of IMO Conventions and IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). The

Group shared experiences, discussed difficulties, and developed solutions relating to implementation of IMO Conventions and IMSAS. Members agreed that the Correspondence Group be closed.

15. New Zealand provided an updated on the outcomes of a workshop held in May 2022 on the use of futures thinking tools as a means identify regional needs and opportunities for greater regional cooperation. Australia agreed to share a concept paper on how future thinking tools may be used to support the development of a regional Pacific Strategy for Technical Cooperation. Members also agreed that New Zealand would lead further workshops to continue to explore the use of these tools.
16. Members noted an update from APEC SEN on work to develop a comprehensive suite of online mental health training materials for seafarers. Members confirmed the importance of this work and supported the need to hold capacity building events among maritime stakeholders to further develop mental health training programs and materials.
17. Singapore shared with members information of the Safety@Sea Singapore Campaign, key of which is the International Safety@Sea week. Members were encouraged to consider registering for the International Safety@Sea week, to be held from 29 August to 2 September.
18. Members noted an update from Canada on a suite of initiatives to improve the safety of operators, passengers and crew on board small recreational and commercial vessels. These initiatives include current work to examine policy options to require the mandatory wearing of personal flotation devices (PFD) for recreational boaters. While this analysis is underway, Canada continues to work closely with international standard setting bodies and other administrations to help ensure Canadian boaters have access to PFDs that are comfortable to wear and avoid entanglement issues. Many members indicated an interest to learn more about the work of Canada and Australia. Members agreed that the APHoMSA Secretariat would consider ways to help with the sharing of small vessel safety information between interested States.
19. Members noted IALA's new guideline - *G1165 on Sustainable Structural Design of Marine Aids to Navigation*. Members thanked IALA for sharing a leaflet for Southern Pacific Islands listing commonly used structural design standards and further sources of regional engineering and environmental guidance.
20. Members noted an update from IALA on the outcomes of their 2021 workshop on cyber security and its impact on navigation. The workshop identified a number of future work items for IALA technical committees aimed at improving cyber security, with a focus on human behaviour and ensuring safety culture as key elements. IALA recommended APHoMSA members consider participating in the work of IALA technical committees.
21. Members noted an update from the United States on work to build maritime cyber resilience, including the U.S. Coast Guard taking a proactive role in reducing cybersecurity risks across the U.S. Marine Transportation System.



## Marine Environment Protection

22. Members noted an update from IMO on their work to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping. The IMO reported on progress made in the revision of the Initial Strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, the development of IMO carbon lifecycle guidelines, the development of a basket of candidate mid-term GHG emission reduction measures, including technical and carbon-pricing elements, and the IMO's multi-donor GHG TC Trust Fund. IMO highlighted a new project on improving the availability of maritime transport costs data for the Pacific region, which is implemented by MTCC-Pacific, and invited participation at an IMO symposium on 'just and equitable' GHG reduction measures, to be held on 21 October 2022. The IMO recalled the invitation of MEPC for interested Member States to submit concrete proposals on the revision of the Strategy. Australia agreed to share with members their work on domestic arrangements to address GHG emissions from ships, in particular the implementation of the new carbon intensity requirements (EEXI and CII). APHoMSA Secretariat also agreed to consider ways in which this forum could work together to progress measures to reduce GHG emissions from shipping in the region.
23. Members noted that the IMO and Republic of Korea have jointly established the Sustainable Maritime Transport Training Program (GHG-SMART Program) to support least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with capacity to implement the IMO's initial GHG Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships. Republic of Korea invited eligible APHoMSA members to participate in the program, which will run until 2025. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to consult further with Republic of Korea and circulate additional information on the program to members.
24. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) reported the joint launch of the IMO-Singapore NextGEN (Green and Efficient Navigation) initiative. The NextGEN initiative aims to develop a collaborative global ecosystem of maritime transport decarbonisation initiatives to build capacity, share best practices and ensure a level playing field for all countries in their decarbonisation journey. Members commended Singapore and IMO on this collaboration.
25. Members noted Canada's update on the progress made towards implementing the 2010 Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) Convention. Members confirmed the importance of the HNS Convention and thanked Canada for their leadership. Members were invited to participate in a virtual workshop to be hosted by Canada from 31 October to 1 November 2022. Canada offered to share experience and technical expertise to States progressing ratification.
26. Solomon Islands provided an update on their approach to reducing GHG emissions from ships, citing Solomon Islands ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2016 and working towards reducing GHG emissions from domestic shipping by 40% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. The APHoMSA Secretariat agreed to consider a suggestion from Solomon Islands to enhance the prominence of GHG emissions from ships into the APHoMSA Strategy.
27. SPREP provided members with an update on the PACPLAN Resilience project. The project aims to deliver three outcomes: lower the risk of inadequate financial recovery and impact restitution

for the six target countries of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Kiribati, and Tuvalu; lower the risk of inadequate response outcomes; and build capability across all PACPLAN countries and the region. Members expressed support to form a Technical Advisory Group and noted this work's importance considering recent pollution incidents in the region.

28. SPREP updated members on the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA5.2), which agreed to a Resolution "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument". The Resolution committed to the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to negotiate a new binding global agreement covering the whole life cycle of plastics. Members were encouraged to participate in a Pacific regional preparatory workshop for the first INC to be held from 16 to 18 August in Suva, Fiji. Members expressed strong support for this initiative and expressed their interest in attending the workshop and continuing to engage on this topic.
29. Members noted an update from China on the provision of onshore power as part of the transition to green and low carbon shipping. Members shared their experiences with shore-based power. China confirmed that all members are welcome to share the paper with their ports to encourage uptake of shore power provision.
30. Mongolia submitted a request for technical assistance, noting the unique challenges landlocked States face in addressing marine pollution and pollution from ships. Mongolia thanked the Republic of Korea for their offer of assistance with training, and the Republic of Korea noted in turn that other landlocked countries, such as Botswana, had experienced similar issues. Members encouraged Mongolia to discuss their technical needs with the IMO and consider the comprehensive program of technical assistance planned for the Asia-Pacific region located on the APHoMSA website.
31. Members noted a status update from Indonesia on an oil spill response exercise (MARPOLEX) held jointly between Indonesia, Philippines, and Japan from 22 to 28 May 2022. The Philippines and United States commended Indonesia on hosting this exercise and emphasised the importance of collaboration between countries in these exercises. The Republic of Indonesia and Philippines are inviting APHoMSA members to participate in the regional MARPOLEX to be hosted by the Philippines in 2024.

## Maritime Incident Response

32. The United States shared information on the Conception fire incident on 2 September 2019, covering the factors which contributed to the incident and the actions taken by the U.S. Coast Guard. Members thanked the United States for the information, recognising the importance of fully investigating, learning, and adapting safety regulations and enforcement from maritime catastrophes to prevent and avoid similar future incidents. Members supported sharing information to enhance safety measures.
33. Members noted that Australia will host the 9th Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Workshop (PACSAR) in Cairns, Australian from 10 to 14 October 2022. Members also noted that an IMO led, supported by SPC, Women in Maritime Conference will be held in parallel with

PACSAR. Pacific States were encouraged to attend both events, with further details to be provided to members soon. Australia also agreed to share the outcomes of both conferences at the next session of APHoMSA in 2023.

34. Members noted Australia's development of Strategic Planning Tools for responding to maritime emergencies around Australia's coastline. The Strategic Planning Tools combine a range of operational and environmental data that allows AMSA to estimate potential future and current risks, and potential capability options to address these risks. Demonstrations of the software will be shared with members on the APHoMSA website. Australia also agreed to share results of the planning tool and information on the system technologies used, and provide a presenter for the next session of IALA's Aids to Navigation Requirements and Management (ARM) Committee.
35. The United States shared information on the implementation of autonomous distress tracking (ADT) of aircraft in flight. The new ADT system will be implemented on 1 January 2023, and it is essential that global maritime and aviation search and rescue (SAR) agencies are prepared. The US Coast Guard emphasised the need to establish and validate new national and regional practices, procedures, training, and guidance in preparation for implementation.

## Regional Cooperation

36. Members noted an update from the IMO on progress towards establishing a Regional Presence Office (RPO) for the Pacific Islands. Members congratulated Fiji on being selected as the host country for the RPO and noted progress towards the signing of a host country Memorandum of Understanding between IMO and Fiji. Members also noted the financial and in-kind contributions made by Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to support the establishment of the RPO.
37. Members noted an update from IALA on progress made towards ratification of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. To date, 51 States have signed the Convention and five have ratified – Singapore, Norway, Japan, Malaysia, and India. IALA will transition to inter-governmental organisation status once the Convention enters into force.
38. Members noted an update from IALA on the work of the IALA World-Wide Academy, including the establishment of the IALA Disaster Recovery Fund. IALA thanked members for their work and financial contributions to support the ongoing efforts of the World-Wide Academy.
39. Members noted an update from the APHoMSA Secretariat on technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia-Pacific region. Members agreed to provide the Secretariat with details of technical cooperation activities planned for the Asia-Pacific region.
40. Members noted an update from the APHoMSA Secretariat on the outcomes of key meetings from international and regional organisations relating to the APHoMSA pillars. Members agreed to notify the Secretariat of any particular outcomes they would like included in this resource.
41. Members noted the comprehensive update from the Tokyo MOU on activities conducted in 2021. Australia commended the Tokyo MOU on their accomplishments using remote technologies. Tokyo MOU confirmed they would continue to use remote technologies when



conducting some aspects of their technical cooperation program. Members also noted the 33rd meeting of the Tokyo MOU Port State Control Committee is scheduled to be held in Lima, Peru from 14 to 17 November 2022.

42. The People's Republic of China provided an update on the promotion and application of electronic certificates in the Asia-Pacific region. Singapore informed members of their efforts towards digital transformation for port and marine services, including Single Window functionality for e-certificates. Papua New Guinea, supported by Kiribati, highlighted the challenges of Small Island Developing States, many of whom do not currently have the capacity to receive and recognise e-certificates.
43. Members noted the information from the People's Republic of China on their approach to the practice of consolidated certificates for ships on domestic voyages. Members noted China's success with consolidated certificates, which improves the efficiency of maritime administrations by unifying the validity period and the inspection cycle of certificates; and eliminates the time difference caused by the renewal and inspection of different certificates.
44. China provided members with information on the broad range of activities undertaken by China to improve domestic ferry safety. Members commended China's efforts to improve the safety of their domestic ferry fleet, and more broadly across the Asia-Pacific region. Members applauded China's leadership through the ASEAN Regional Forum on Ferry Safety.
45. Mongolia updated the forum on their intentions to expand trading access to a greater number of Asia Pacific coastal states. Republic of Korea and People's Republic of China highlighted their support for Mongolia through the signing of MOUs with Mongolia Maritime Administration. Mongolia requested to become a member of the Tokyo MOU, however, Tokyo MOU advised that it may be difficult to grant membership and observer status of Mongolia to the organisation in accordance with the Tokyo MOU membership criteria. The Tokyo MOU invited Mongolia to participate in a seminar on flag state performance improvement, supported by the Nippon Foundation, in late 2022. Mongolia may also participate in Tokyo MOU training activities under the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Program. IMO also encouraged members to share national legislation on the IMO's new GISIS 'National Maritime Legislation' module, which would benefit developing states.
46. Members noted the United States update on initiatives to promote and regulate innovative new technologies for the maritime community, including the use by commercial space entities of multi-use rockets that return to earth, the use of offshore wind turbines, and differing risks posed by cleaner burning fuels.
47. Indonesia provided an update on Chairing of the Aids to Navigation Fund (ANF), an interconnected component of the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environment Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Members were encouraged to consider making financial contributions to the fund.
48. Members noted an update from ReCAAP ISC on incidents for 2021 on piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. Singapore and United States commended the role played by the ReCAAP

ISC in combatting piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

49. The Republic of Korea updated members on a pilot project “Global Onboard Training Program 2021”. The program aims to provide capacity-building courses focusing on onboard training and assisting future maritime officers to meet the minimum standard of seagoing experience in accordance with the STCW Convention. Members expressed gratitude to Republic of Korea for their efforts to develop the training program with Mongolia and Indonesia expressing an interest in participation.
50. Members noted an update from the Republic of Korea on preparations for the Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific 2022 Conference, scheduled to be held in Seoul from 15-16 September. The conference covers five sessions, including maritime digital future, maritime digital core technology and platform, cyber security, cooperation plan for maritime digital transformation, and signing the maritime digital cluster construction MoU. The main purpose of the MoU on global digital test bed clusters is to demonstrate the value of establishing services in different parts of the world. Australia thanked the Republic of Korea for hosting this important conference and confirmed their participation and intention to sign the MOU on global digital testbed clusters.
51. The APHoMSA Secretariat called for nominations to host the 24th and 25th sessions of APHoMSA, to be held in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Mongolia confirmed they will host the 23rd session of APHoMSA in 2023, but noted it was too soon to advise whether the forum would be held in-person or virtually. Members were encouraged to notify the Secretariat should they be interested in hosting either the 24th or 25th sessions of APHoMSA.