

24th Session of APHoMSA

Outcome Statement

1. The 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was hosted in Fuzhou, China from 25 to 27 March 2025. The meeting was opened by Mr Fu Xuyin, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Transport of China; Ms Guo Ningning, Secretary of the Municipal Committee of CPC, Fuzhou City; Mr Wei Xiaokui, Deputy Governor of Fujian Province; and Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, IMO Secretary General (via a pre-recorded video). The opening ceremony was facilitated by Mr Xu Wei, Executive Director General of China Maritime Safety Administration. The meeting was Chaired by Mr Peter Brunt, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Maritime New Zealand.
2. 19 countries and special administrative region, including 17 members and two non-APHoMSA observers were represented: Australia; Cambodia, Chile; People's Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong China; Kiribati; Mongolia; Nauru; New Zealand; Niue; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Vanuatu.
3. Five standing observers were represented: the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC); the Pacific Community (SPC); and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Women in Maritime

4. Members commended the IMO's commitment to gender equity, particularly through the introduction of gender markers, the promotion of inclusive policies, establishment of regional Women in Maritime Associations, and the recognition of women's technical expertise in decision-making forums. Members committed to enhancing gender equity in the maritime sector, and supported the systematic integration of Gender Equality Markers in national and regional technical cooperation initiatives to ensure long-term impact and sustainability.
5. The People's Republic of China updated members on the outcomes of the Women in Maritime Survey for the Asia Pacific region. Members noted efforts to identify the complex challenges and barriers that women in the Asia-Pacific maritime sector face, and agreed to continue to cooperate and share best practices amongst APHoMSA members.
6. SPC updated members on the development of the *Regional Strategy for Women in Maritime 2025-30*. The strategy aims to create a more inclusive maritime sector by addressing leadership, skills development, workplace safety, funding and policy support. Members agreed to support active participation to drive sustainable and meaningful change

and consider opportunities to contribute financial or in-kind support to assist with delivery of the strategy. Members acknowledged the work of the Pacific Women In Maritime Association (PACWIMA) and the national WIMA's.

7. Members commended the successful implementation of the *Gender-Responsive Climate Action in the Informal Shipping Sector: A Practical Demonstration Project* in Gaire village, Papua New Guinea. The initiative introduced a solar powered electric skiff to the Kisere Women's Cooperative Society (KWCS) in Gaire Village to promote sustainable maritime practices. Members noted the project as a pioneering model for gender-responsible climate action in the maritime sector, and agreed to continue to consider policy integration of renewable energy powered small craft into national regulatory frameworks, and support capacity building efforts to increase women's leadership in maritime energy management.

Safety at Sea, Including Seafarer Welfare

8. Members noted Canada's efforts to regulate the mandatory wear of personal floatation devices / life jackets and to enhance the safety of operators, passengers, and crew on board small commercial vessels. Members noted similar initiatives in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands. Members supported continuation of information sharing across both initiatives, and requested further updates from Canada on lessons learnt and experiences of their programs.
9. Members commended Mongolia for sharing lessons learned from piracy cases. ReCAAP invited APHoMSA members to consider participation at various regional conferences and dialogues available each year.
10. Mongolia updated members on initiatives to combat illegal shipping operations by the shadow fleet. Members noted the 2023 IMO resolution which urged Member States to promote actions to prevent illegal operations by the shadow fleet, and agreed to continue to share information and experiences on this matter.
11. Papua New Guinea provided members with an overview of their new engine room simulator that allows for the conduct of oral examinations for near coast and STCW certificates of competency. Members noted the signing of MOUs for sub-regional Maritime Technical Cooperation by the maritime administrations of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It is hoped these facilities will be utilised to train inspectors and examiners from those three countries, and eventually extended to other Pacific Island nations. Members requested that developed Flag State administrations consider opportunities to further support development of regional training capacity to ensure a safe and conducive maritime sector.
12. Members noted Tonga's update on current maritime safety and navigational challenges. Members agreed that enhancement of vessel tracking capabilities and slipway construction infrastructure were priority areas, and supported further collaboration on these matters.
13. Members commended the People's Republic of China for sharing experiences with crew

training for battery-powered ships. Members agreed to establish a Correspondence Group on the study of training standards for crew members of battery-powered ships, including expansion of the group to also include the design and operation of battery powered ships. People's Republic of China agreed to lead the correspondence group.

14. People's Republic of China informed members of recommendations to combat fraudulent ship registration practices. Members agreed to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms and explore opportunities to collaborate further on this matter.
15. SPC updated members on the innovative and creative *Adopt-a-Ship Program* that successfully connects ships with young people across Fiji. Members agreed to support the implementation of the program through their national Women in Maritime Associations and integrate into education and outreach initiatives to foster early interest in maritime careers. Members agreed to further expand the program to more schools and countries across the Pacific by leveraging lessons learned from Fiji's pilot project. SPC also agreed to share, through the APHoMSA secretariat, further information on the program.
16. Members commended Fiji on initiatives to improve Aids to Navigation (AtoN) capabilities. Members acknowledged contributions provided by the Republic of Korea and supported undertaking feasibility studies on the establishment of virtual AtoN's in principle shipping routes and on remote monitoring systems. Members acknowledged existing programs on safety of navigation already in existence in the region and the need for AtoN vessels. Members agreed to provide further advice and support.
17. Members also noted updates on:
 - The first joint Indian Ocean and Tokyo MOU on Port State Control seminar, held on the Gold Coast, Australia, from 24 to 28 February 2025;
 - Republic of Korea's Maritime Traffic Safety Examination Policies and activities to enhance maritime cyber safety;
 - arrangements for Flag State Quality Control Audits adopted to uphold the quality of ships under the Shipping Registry of Hong Kong, China;
 - Canada's approach to marine pilotage; and
 - Singapore's Integrated Port Operations C3 (IPOC) work (including a supporting video).

Marine Environment Protection

18. Members commended SPREP's efforts to improve the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN). Members noted that Noumea Convention members have agreed that PACPLAN 2019 may no longer be fit for purpose. Members welcomed SPREP's plan to consult with both PACPLAN and APHoMSA members to develop a Concept of Operations proposal for presentation to the Noumea

Convention COP in August 2025.

19. Members commended the People's Republic of China for sharing experiences on the promotion and application of alternative energy in shipping. Members agreed to expand *Correspondence Group - on Alternative Energy Application, including Seafarer Training* (refer to paragraph 13) to also include sharing of measures and experiences related to the application of alternative fuels in shipping.
20. IMO provided an update on work to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping. Members noted:
 - the adoption of the 2023 IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships;
 - the invitation to Member States and international organisation's to work towards the development of the basket of candidate mid-term measures;
 - efforts made by IMO to develop appropriate safety and sustainability regulatory frameworks; and
 - progress made with technical cooperation and capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region.
21. Members noted the update on IMO's work, including progress made on capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific, on the London Convention and Protocol to regulate the dumping of waste into the ocean.
22. Members welcomed the update by Australia on the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic pollution from ships. Australia confirmed its commitment to share information and experiences with APHoMSA members via an intersessional update.
23. Fiji provided an update on efforts to manage the increasing environmental and navigational risk posed by derelict and wrecked vessels in Fiji waters. SPREP highlighted the complexity of the issue and advised that proposals on a regional wreck mechanism will be presented to the Noumea Convention COP in August 2025. Members agreed to continue discussions on a coordinated regional approach for technical assistance and financial support, and how the Nairobi Convention may play a role within this framework.
24. Members commended the efforts of Singapore to accelerate maritime decarbonisation. Members agreed to embark on international collaboration efforts to support the uptake of zero and near-zero emission fuels and technologies, including through pilots and trials and the development of bunkering procedures and standards for such fuels. Members also agreed to collaborate as a NextGEN (joint initiative developed by Singapore and the IMO) partner by contributing content to its virtual ecosystem or by facilitating stakeholder engagement for the development of inclusive route-based action plans.
25. Singapore's efforts to improve the efficiency of port operations through implementation of Just-

In-Time (JIT) Planning and Coordination Platforms. In view of APHoMSA member interest, Singapore and the People's Republic of China plan to submit a paper to future sessions of APHoMSA, consolidating members' best practices in maritime digitalisation on JIT planning and electronic certificates.

Maritime Incident Response

26. Members noted ReCAAP ISC update on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2024, and efforts to enhance the centre's regional cooperation capabilities through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements.
27. Members acknowledged the review of Australia's National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies. Members confirmed an interest to learn from Australia's experiences.
28. Members welcomed Republic of Korea's invitation to members to join the Marine Accident Investigators Forum (MAIFA), with the next meeting to be held in Singapore from 24-26 September 2025.

Regional Cooperation

29. The secretariat updated members with planned Technical Cooperation Activities in the Asia-Pacific for 2025. Members were encouraged to provide on-going input to this paper to ensure all technical cooperation opportunities relevant to the Asia Pacific are captured.
30. Members noted the update from IMO on progress to establish an IMO Regional Presence Office for the Pacific, including advice that the onboarding of a Regional Coordinator is underway. New Zealand, Australia, Solomon Islands, Samoa and other member states raised concerns with the delay in establishing the RPO and the changes to arrangements. Members urged SPC and the Government of Fiji to finalise the hosting arrangements of the RPO as soon as possible, including involving SPC in the hosting arrangements. IMO confirmed that a work plan on the set-up of the RPO has been developed for consideration and feedback by members.
31. Members thanked New Zealand for their paper on Pacific regional resource needs for maritime incidents. New Zealand agreed to lead further discussions with members to explore opportunities to improve regional coordination, including options to develop a regional pool of experts to enhance support for Pacific Island Countries and Territories in managing maritime incidents.
32. Members commended China on recent achievements of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) in China. Members also agreed to include information and experience sharing of MASS into the expanded scope of the Correspondence Group (refer to paragraphs 13 and 19).
33. Chile updated members on programs delivered to maritime personnel by the Maritime Education and Training Centre (CIMAR) of Chile. With a view to increasing knowledge of navigation in Antarctic and Arctic waters, Chile confirmed a commitment to deliver IMO model courses 7.11 and 7.12 and invites APHoMSA members to consider participation.

34. Members reaffirmed support for continual expansion and evolution of Republic of Korea's Global On-Board Training Program to foster competent seafarers.
35. IALA updated members on the organisation's achieved transition to an Inter-governmental Organisation (IGO), expressing a commitment to the Asia Pacific region. Members noted that Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Solomon Islands have become contracting parties to the IALA Convention. Members were urged to consider ratification to the Convention and encouraged to continue to improve competencies and capacity of their aids to navigation authorities by making use of IALA World Wide Academy expertise.
36. Members acknowledged SPC's role in coordinating Heads of Maritime Transport Meetings (HoM) to advance Pacific maritime transport initiatives. Member States, international donors and development partners were to encouraged to explore funding opportunities to ensure sustainability of future HoM meetings.
37. Members acknowledged the efforts of SPC, Pacific maritime administrations and regional partners in coordinating the development and progress of the Pacific One Maritime Framework (POMF), particularly the role played by Solomon Islands as Chair and Tonga as co-chair of the POMF Steering and Drafting Committees. The POMF is currently open for national consultation. Members agreed to support implementation of the POMF through financial and technical cooperation contributions.
38. Members thanked Solomon Islands for sharing their approach to developing maritime training by leveraging national partnerships and regional technical cooperation. Members agreed to consider opportunities to provide technical cooperation to share resources and expertise and facilitate maritime training and employment of seafarers from the Pacific region.
39. The secretariat invited nominations from members to host future sessions of APHoMSA, acknowledging that Solomon Islands has agreed to host the 25th session in 2026. People's Republic of China offered to share hosting experiences with potential future hosts.
40. Members also noted updates on:
 - outcomes of relevant International and Regional Organisations; and
 - recent activities and developments of the Tokyo MOU on Port State Control.

Other Business

41. Members approved the membership of Nauru to APHoMSA.