Changing Tides
Newsletter of the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia

Changing tides is a quarterly newsletter of the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GI SEA) Programme. GI SEA is within the framework of the Global Initiative, a partnership between IPIECA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that promotes industry and government cooperation in enhancing oil spill preparedness and response in the ASEAN region.

Regional Preparedness and the Global Initiative Southeast Asia (GI SEA)

The establishment of a Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Southeast Asian region is close to realisation. In the 26th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Maritime Transport Working Group (ASEAN MTWG) meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, the delegates have agreed to the final text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will enable the ASEAN OSRAP (Oil Spill Response Action Plan) to be reborn when it is signed by the Ministers of the ASEAN countries at the end of 2013.

History of the ASEAN OSRAP

The Japan Association of Maritime Safety (JAMS) and the Nippon Foundation initiated the ASEAN OSRAP in 1991. In 1994, six ASEAN countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore signed an MOU establishing the ASEAN OSRAP.

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“GI SEA aims to improve the regional capability in Southeast Asia by assisting in the development of national capacities in oil spill preparedness and response through industry and government cooperation”
GI SEA Attends PEMSEA’s GOT Meeting in Phuket

GI SEA was invited to attend and present in the Seventh Sub-regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand and Sub-regional Integration Workshop on ESI Mapping in the Gulf of Thailand held in Cape Panwa, Phuket in Thailand.

The Subregional Meeting is aimed at assessing initiatives at the national and subregional level to support the implementation of the Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand. Held back-to-back was the Subregional Integration Workshop on ESI Mapping in the Gulf of Thailand.

GI SEA aims to partner with PEMSEA in the implementation of its programmes in the Gulf of Thailand subregion so as to maximize effectiveness as well as synergize with the ongoing activities already identified for 2014 and beyond.

The meeting and integration workshop was attended by the Acting Executive Director of PEMSEA, Stephen Adrian Ross, and the key government focal points from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

PEMSEA Subregional Programme on the GOT

PEMSEA’s Subregional Programme on the Gulf of Thailand has been ongoing since 2001. In 2006, the Joint Statement between Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand was signed paving the way for closer cooperation between the three countries on the issue of oil spill response and preparedness.

PEMSEA Partnership Council Meeting

The Fifth PEMSEA Partnership Council meeting was held in Manila last 9-13 July 2013. GI SEA was invited as an observer and also to present on the GI SEA Programme and the possible collaboration opportunities that exist between the two organisations.

PEMSEA has been in the East Asian Seas region for 20 years and has a very good network in the Southeast Asian countries where GI SEA will focus on. Its Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Programme is a great entry opportunity for GI SEA to do work in this subregion but also in the individual participant countries of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.
GI SEA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

In this issue of the newsletter, we will focus on the main governance body of GI SEA known as the Executive Steering Committee or ESC. The first formal meeting of the GI SEA ESC will be held on the 8th of November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

FAQ1: What is the GI SEA Executive Steering Committee?

The GI SEA Executive Steering Committee (ESC) is the main governance body of the GI SEA that has oversight and control over its activities and administration.

FAQ2: Who are members of the GI SEA ESC?

The members of the GI SEA ESC are the nominated individual representatives of the current member companies of GI SEA and partner organisations such as the IMO.

FAQ3: What are the roles and responsibilities of the GI ESC Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee Members:

- Are the vocal and visible project champions throughout their representative organisations;
- Review and approve the scope of the programme;
- Approve the biennial action plan;
- Provide direction and guidance to the programme implementation;
- Act as liaison to their local business units or national oil companies for the programme implementation;
- Ensure compliance of programme deliverables with the needs of business units and national oil companies;
- Ensure the programme promotes cooperation between industry and government, and that the activities support the objectives of the ASEAN OSRAP;
- Promote the development of joint initiatives with business units and national oil companies
- Help resolve issues and decisions;
- Oversee and monitor progress of the programme;
- Conduct a biannual management and financial review to propose improvement and corrective action

FAQ4: How is the GI SEA ESC structured?

An elected Chairperson heads the GI SEA ESC. The Chair will be elected during the meeting of the ESC in Bangkok. The Chair is supported by the Vice Chair and the Project Manager.

FAQ5: Where can I get more information on the GI SEA ESC and GI SEA in general?

Please contact the Project Manager for more any questions or feedback. The contact details are posted at the end (page 6) of this newsletter.
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The main objective was to provide a co-operative plan for mutual assistance from Member States and organizations in the event of a major oil spill incident that exceeds the response capability of the national government. The geographic scope of the ASEAN OSRAP includes all the waters within the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of the ASEAN countries.

Japan also sponsored the OSPAR (Oil Spill Preparedness and Response) in 1994 where 1 billion yen was donated to the ASEAN countries for the purchase of oil spill equipment to reinforce national stockpiles in 11 key locations. The OSPAR project also enabled the development of the ASEAN Oil Spill Information Network System. Although quite different from OSRAP, OSPAR was interchangeably confused with the MOU.

The implementation of the original ASEAN OSRAP had met with challenges, as only six countries were party to the MOU. The IMO, therefore, set out to revitalize the MOU by holding a National Focal Points Meeting and a Workshop in 2009 hosted by Indonesia. The MOU was reviewed and a draft Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) was considered to strengthen it.

On October 2011, a follow-up Regional Workshop funded by IMO, made policy recommendations on the establishment of a Regional Cooperation Mechanism on oil spill preparedness and response including the development of a regional action plan. It was also agreed that the revised MOU would include all the 10 ASEAN member states within the Brunei Action Plan. This was followed up by another IMO funded Regional Workshop a year later where the draft MOU for the ASEAN Cooperative Mechanism was drafted for submission to the 24th meeting of the ASEAN MTWG (Maritime Transport Working Group).

On the 19th of March 2013, the 4th IMO funded Regional Workshop for the establishment of a Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the ASEAN region was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. It was a quick follow up on to the 25th session of the ASEAN MTWG, held in Mandalay, Myanmar, from 12 to 14 March 2013. The outcome of the workshop included the final draft MOU on Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the ASEAN region for endorsement by the 35th session of the Senior Transport Officials Meeting and an action plan to implement the provisions of the draft MOU. This was held back-to-back with the launch of the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GI SEA) to enable the ASEAN delegates to participate in the event.
The Way Forward

The final text of the draft MOU was subsequently approved during the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN MTWG held in Yangon, Myanmar on 22-24 August 2013. The document is scheduled to be formally signed in December 2013 by the member countries. This is a major milestone for oil spill preparedness and response in the ASEAN region and is the fruitful outcome of IMO’s sustained intervention through its Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP).

The preparedness levels within ASEAN vary from country to country and the implementation of the ASEAN OSRAP MOU will need to take this into consideration. The IMO, through its ITCP, has an ongoing programme of activities in place to provide the necessary level of assistance to meet the goal of an improved preparedness and response regime in ASEAN. And as a key partner of IMO, GI SEA is well positioned to collaborate on regional as well as national activities to enhance oil spill preparedness and response through industry-government partnerships. The GI SEA activities will focus on:

- Legislation - To promote the ratification of relevant conventions such as OPRC 90, CLC 92 and Fund 92 Convention;
- Contingency Planning - To promote the development of national and/or regional oil spill contingency plans;
- Equipment - To have the appropriate and adequate type of oil spill response resources corresponding to the level of risk and type of threat;
- Training & Exercises - To ensure that training and exercises are developed and implemented in each country on a regular basis; and
- Forces for Implementation - To promote exchange and mutual assistance and cooperation in oil spill response.

There are many regional examples, such as NOWPAP (Northwest Pacific Action Plan), that can serve as a good template for the implementation of the ASEAN OSRAP MOU. The lessons learned from these examples must be distilled and adapted for the specific requirements of ASEAN. The excellent integration of the member countries as well as the largely harmonious relations between them will be the keys to success.
GI SEA Executive Steering Committee First Meeting in Bangkok

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) is the primary governance body that oversees the GI SEA Programme. The meeting is scheduled on the 8th of November this year to discuss the proposed GI SEA activities and their implementation in 2014 and also plan for 2015 and beyond.

The current members of the GI SEA ESC are Chevron, ExxonMobil, Pertamina, Shell and the IMO. The meeting will elect a Chairperson to lead the ESC in the first phase of the GI SEA Programme and is a significant milestone in the implementation of the GI SEA Programme.

For any questions, feedback or comments, please contact:

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