



**Review the Outcome of the Eighth Oil Spill Response Officers'  
(OSRO) Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014, State of Qatar**

**The Ninth OSRO Meeting was a follow up**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016, State of Qatar**

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 : MEMAC Management Plan**

### **Recommendation**

Considering the lack of proper implementation of various approved programmes by the ROPME Council, the Meeting agreed that under the Council Decision 15/1-I, “Technical Assistance”, to nominate a MEMAC expert in the field as appropriate to visit the Member States to consult and commence the implementation of the programmes, and identify associated implementation challenges.

The implementation challenges developed by the bilateral visits should be presented as the short evidence based white paper with the proper fact sheet and supporting tools.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 : Place of Refuge (POR)**

- The Meeting agreed that Phase 1 of the visit should commence from Mid April 2014 and the Member States to provide suitable dates.
- MEMAC should submit a letter to the Focal Points with proposed dates in order to provide the necessary arrangements for the IMO consultant’s visit.
- The result and the report of the visits should be send to MEMAC not later than the end of August 2014.
- After the reception of the report of the consultant, MEMAC should convene a workshop with regard to POR as requested by the Council.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 : Establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response and Salvage Co-operation Unit (MERCU) Project**

1. Member States to Establish MERCU National Committee, if needed, to commence the implementation of the Council Decision within the time frame reflected in the Decision.
2. MEMAC should provide the necessary technical assistance to the Member States that seek for assistance from MEMAC. If needed or requested, MEMAC will present a Master Presentation of MERCU which includes the feasibility model, the financial model, the legal model and the timeframe work among other relevant information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 : The Status of Port State Control (PSC)**

The Meeting requested MEMAC to follow up this important matter.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 : The Status of the Marine Search and Rescue (SAR)**

Note: The Meeting informed that the SAR subject is not within MEMAC's mandate, but due to humanitarian concerns, MEMAC cannot ignore those distress calls for salvage, as well as several incidents associated with pollution and life salvage which needs to coordinate in timely manner.

**The Meeting emphasised the importance of the SAR subject and requested MEMAC to convene a Meeting for the Regional SAR Committee as decided by the Council.**

### **AGENDA ITEM 10 : Periodical Reports on Marine Emergency**

The Meeting discussed the implementation of the Council Decisions and the importance of communicating the information with the concerned parties within the Member States by the NFPs.

Also, and as a part of the Council Decisions, the Meeting received the assurance of IR. Iran and S. Oman to install the AIS equipment that has been given earlier by MEMAC in not more than a three months' period from the date of the Meeting as a highly important matter towards enhancing the monitoring and surveillance aspects in RSA.

MEMAC Director informed the Meeting that the new MEMAC website will be ready to be in operational phase within a three months' period and therefore all the Member States and OSRO Members will be provided with the login process in order to have the access to all Meeting documents and all of the necessary information.

### **AGENDA ITEM 11 : Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRAS)**

He emphasised the importance of establishing communications and cooperation between OSRO Members and the MEHRAs Committee Members at National level to obtain the necessary sensitivity mapping to support their National Contingency Plan, as well as MEMAC to obtain the updated data and information and include them within the Regional Contingency Plan.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12: Reviewing and updating the Regional Oil Contingency Plan and its Oil Pollution Manual**

The Meeting decided to update the Regional Oil Contingency Plan and its Manual during the upcoming Regional Oil Spill exercise.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: The Development of the Regional HNS Contingency Plan and the Development of the ROPME Sea Area Regional HNS Manual**

MEMAC Secretary outlined that due to complicity of the HNS spill combating and the serious concerns with regard to the personal involvement in response to HNS, it is recommended that these two Plans to be left separate. However, after finalizing the discussions, it is totally left to the Member States' wishes to merge both Oil and HNS Contingency Plans together with full explanations and instructions within the plan, aiming at the best practical utilization.

**AGENDA ITEM 14 : Review, Discussion and Update the Status of Member States' Oil and Chemical Spill National Contingency Plans and Related Elements**

- 1 The Meeting recommended that all the Member States should finalize the process of the update and the approval of their National Oil Spill Contingency Plans in accordance with State regulations and forward the same to MEMAC at their earliest and in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol.
- 2 The Meeting encourages the Member States to develop their National HNS Contingency Plans in accordance with the Council Decision, taking into account the vast developments in the field of the HNS in RSA and the likelihood for such incidents within the Region and, therefore, to enhance the capability of the respective states in order to respond effectively to any HNS Spill.
- 3 Member States to update the List of the Oil Spill Equipment and Stockpiles at their earliest and to provide the same to MEMAC in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol.

- 4 As there was no information about the HNS Spill equipment during the course of the Meeting, OSRO Members recommended that each State should provide the necessary equipment in order to combat HNS Spills as an urgent matter and to provide the List of the Equipment to MEMAC in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol.
- 5 The Meeting recommended that all of the Member States should establish their Data Bank with regard to HNS and compile all the necessary information in that Data Bank.
- 6 The Meeting recognized the importance of the Auditing Programme as an effective tool in order to determine the level of preparedness and response capability and recommended to utilize MEMAC's assistance for conducting such Audit Programmes whenever it deems necessary by the Member States.
- 7 The Meeting took note of the importance of the smooth trans-boundary movement of the Personal and equipment whenever any pollution occurs and, therefore, recommended that all of the Member States should revise their procedures in this regard and facilitate MEMAC with the latest status in this regard.
- 8 The Meeting recommended to update the List of Contact Person/s in the Emergency cases whenever any changes occur and to inform MEMAC accordingly.
- 9 Taking into account that some of the Member States are not a party to the OPRC 90 Convention, the Meeting recommended that RSA States that are not a party to this Convention, should accelerate the ratification process as early as possible and as requested by the Council.
- 10 The Meeting also recommended that in accordance with ROPME Council Decision all the RSA Member States should ratify the OPRC-HNS Protocol at their earliest, taking into consideration that so far only IR. Iran is a party to HNS- Protocol.

- 11 The Meeting recommended that all the Member States should expedite the ratification of the Bunker and the Wreck Removal Conventions at their earliest in order to give effect to ROPME Council Decision and gain benefit from the Conventions during marine incidents.
- 12 The Meeting recommended that all the Member States should develop necessary procedures in order to conduct the assessment of Damage Impacts immediately after each Pollution incident in order to determine the damage caused by the pollution to the marine environment. Thus, in line with the Council Decision to carry out the Damage Impact Assessment in the aftermath of any pollution incident.
- 13 The Meeting recommended that the Member States should expedite the preparation of all the necessary procedures and regulations in order to provide the necessary sanction for the ships violating the National, Regional and International Regulations while there is clear ground to believe the ship is in a non-Compliance condition and the necessary actions such as detention of the ship and receiving the necessary Guarantee is available to the Member States in order to receive the full amount of the compensation to release the ship and as requested by the Council Decision.
- 14 As the next Regional Exercise and Drill will be conducted in the State of Qatar, taking into account the necessary arrangements required for the exercise, coordination between MEMAC and the concerned Authorities in the State of Qatar should be established.

**AGENDA ITEM 15 : The Status of the Master Plan and its Implementation**

Taking into consideration the Sixteenth ROPME Council Decision of the full implementation of the Regional Master Plan, the Meeting recommended that the Member States should expedite the nomination of the Liaison Officer/s within five months' timeframe from the date of this Meeting in order to develop a comprehensive roadmap for the proper implementation of the Regional Master Plan and also to monitor and evaluate its efficacy.

**AGENDA ITEM 17 : Drafting of the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Regional Maritime Casualty Investigation Board and the Nominations of the States**

- In accordance with the Council Decision, the Meeting unanimously supports the idea of establishing the Regional Casualty Investigation Board, and requests MEMAC to develop the TOR for the nomination of the Member of Board for the Member States' Consideration.
- The Meeting also encourages the review of the Draft Guideline for the establishing the Regional Maritime Casualty Investigation Board within three months' timeframe from the date of the meeting, and in case no comments received, MEMAC should consider the Guideline is approved and should be forwarded to the Council as a final document.



## **Member States Representatives Statements**

### **AGENDA ITEM 14 : Review, Discussion and Update the Status of Member States' Oil and Chemical Spill National Contingency Plans and Related Elements**

**14.1** The Response Officers of the Member States introduced the status of their own National Contingency Plans and associated activities as follows:

#### **14.1.1 Kingdom of Bahrain**

Mr. Hassan Marzooq, the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting through a presentation with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

- Status on Ratifying the OPRC- HNS Protocol: it is under process and they have established communication with Maritime Administration.
- HNS Contingency Plan has already been merged with the Oil Spill contingency Plan, and it describes Emergency Response, restoration and Clean-up processes.
- There is no Chemical or Biological Spill equipment.
- In 2012, the chemical section in the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) has developed a database to record the details of every chemical substance entering Bahrain.
- Expedition of customs clearance for the temporary importation of response equipment from outside Bahrain. Loaned equipment will be free of customs duties. Provision of rapid approval of visas to essential response personnel arriving Bahrain to support the spill response efforts.
- The List of contacts in emergency cases is updated and will be submitted to MEMAC.

### 14.1.2 I.R. Iran

Mr. Ghobakhloo, the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting through a presentation with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

- The HNS plan will be merged with the Oil spill National Plan. However, on the Regional level, IR Iran will submit a separate plan.
- HNS Draft Plan has been prepared. The necessary equipment has been considered and identified. A study has also been carried out by an Iranian university in the form of a research project.
- Data base is under consideration to be developed.
- The Iranian Pollution Response System was approved in 13 May 2012. A National Working Group was then established including Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), Department of Environment, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Defense, etc.
- The Auditing Programme has been prepared according to IMO Auditing Programme.
- All requests for entering personnel and equipment into the country need to be submitted to the PMO. The PMO would later coordinate the issue with the Customs Organization and the Immigration Department.
- The list of contact points of pollution response in the country has already been updated and forwarded to MEMAC.
- The Bunker Convention was ratified on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The Wreck Removal Convention was ratified on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
- National (and Regional) exercises are planned and conducted once every two years.

At the end of the IR Iran Representative Presentation, MEMAC Director Captain Al Janahi requested IR Iran to Submit to MEMAC a list of the Necessary questions regarding the ambiguity they raised during the presentation with regard to Port State Control Status and

Regional Casualty Investigation Board in order to enable MEMAC to Remove and Clear those ambiguities.

The Representative of I.R. Iran had forward their view to MEMAC on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 during the period of Report revision, which is as follow:

The I.R. Iran believes the issues related to Port State Control, Search and Rescue and Casualty Investigation to be beyond the jurisdiction and mission defined for ROPME and MEMAC.

### **14.1.3 Republic of Iraq**

Eng. Taha briefed the Meeting about existing the latest status and developments in general as follow:

With regard to the Port State Control (Riyadh MOU), an official request to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Secretary has been submitted to Join Riyadh MOU. Unfortunately no response received so far.

HNS: this issue is under process by the relevant Departments to deal with Chemicals and Radioactive Materials.

National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the HNS Plan: to be developed in Cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a meeting in this regard to be held in Erbil in April 2014.

Mr. Fuyumoro, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), gave a presentation on supporting the Republic of Iraq with regard to the development of Oil Terminal Spill Response Plan (Tier 1) in cooperation with Japan Oil Engineering Company Ltd. Also, he highlighted JICA's plan to support forming Iraq National Contingency Plan, where it will be held for all National Plan stakeholders in the city of Erbil in Iraq by mid of March 2014 in order to commence the Development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

#### **14.1.4 State of Kuwait**

Mr. Jarah Ali briefed the Meeting about existing the latest status and developments as follow:

- **Oil Spill National Contingency Plan**

In 1981, Kuwait established a national Plan Called “Kuwait Action (Contingency) Plan for Combating Marine Pollution By Oil in Cases of Emergencies” with the membership of the government sectors and oil companies. The National plan is annually reviewed and updated with latest local resolutions and international conventions.

- **The Status of the Development of the National HNS Contingency Plan in order to include it within the National Contingency Plans , Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90, OPRC-HNS Protocol and Bunker Convection 2001.**

The Kuwait Action (Contingency) Plan will establish a working group to study the HNS and OPRC Convection 90, HNS Convention 96, OPRC-HNS 2000 and the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 in order to establish a National HNS Contingency Plan and to ratify the International Conventions and Protocols.

- Update of Member States’ Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles

The National Contingency Plan Kuwait Action (Contingency) Plan for Combating Marine Pollution by Oil in Cases of Emergencies has executive members such as Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait Ports Authority and Saudi Arabian Chevron Company. The Committee annually reviews and updates the oil spill equipment stockpiles, and we will provide MEMAC with the updated list.

- **Member States’ Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment**

The working group which is studying to establish the National HNS Contingency Plan will list the needed Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment.

- **Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures**

They are the normal procedures and requirements set by the Ministry of Interior and the Customs General Administration.

- **Update of the List of Contacts in Case of Emergency**

It is annually updated and will be provided to MEMAC.

Also, he stated the following:

- Issuing new regulations or instructions or a directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study, following any incident immediately and promptly.
- Issuance of regulations addressing detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment.

Both the above issues are addressed within the Law No. 12 of the year 1964 (Prevention of Oil Pollution of the Navigational Water), the Environmental Law.

#### **14.1.5 Sultanate of Oman**

Mr. A. Hakium, OSRO Members, briefed the meeting with the latest development with regard to their status as follows:

##### **1) The National Oil Spill Contingency Plans**

The Oil Spill Contingency Plan is under the update status.

##### **2) The Development of the National HNS Contingency Plan.**

It is under process.

##### **3) Update of the Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles**

The Oil Spill Stockpiles is updated and a copy will be sent to MEMAC.

##### **4) Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment**

It is under consideration.

**5) The Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building the Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances**

It is under process.

**6) The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Program**

MEMAC will be requested to assist in this regard.

**7) Customs and Immigration Procedures.**

All the necessary procedures in this regard are set on advance for prompt clearance and have been exercised.

**8) Update of the List of Contacts in Case of Emergency**

It is updated and will be sent to MEMAC.

**14.1.6 State of Qatar**

Mr. Ali Rajab Ashkanani, the Manager of the Oil Spill Response of the Qatar Petroleum (QP), briefed the Meeting about the Oil Spill and Emergency Response Department. He mentioned that the QP is the Lead Agency for Oil Spills in the State of Qatar. He also gave the Status Report of State of Qatar as per MEMAC template: the HNS Operating Companies have their own HNS plans for response to Spills at Sea, whereas the Chemical Spills on the land are covered by Ministry of Defence and the Civil Defence. In Future, HNS Plan and response will be under QP, awaiting approval from all concerned government Departments.

State of Qatar Ratified the OPRC in 2009.

**1) The National Oil Spill Contingency Plans**

The Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been developed and will be reviewed.

**2) The Development of the National HNS Contingency Plan.**

It is under process.

**3) Update of the Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles**

it has been updated and a copy will be sent to MEMAC

**4) Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment**

It is under consideration and is under the authority of Civil Defense.

**5) The Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building the Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances**

It is under process.

**6) The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Program**

This initiative is supported and MEMAC will be requested to assist.

**7) Customs and Immigration Procedures.**

All the necessary procedures in this regard are in place.

**8) Update of the list of contacts in case of Emergency**

It is updated and will be sent to MEMAC.

**14.1.7 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

Mr. Hussain, the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting through a presentation on the latest status and developments as follow:

**1) The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

A National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been prepared since 1991, which covers the ROPME Sea Area and the Red Sea. The Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been developed and will be reviewed. In Future, there is a decision to cover Oil Spill Response under the Environmental Disaster Plan.

**2) The Development of the National HNS Contingency Plan.**

It is under process, and equipment to be prepared in the near future.

**3) Update of the Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles**

New Oil Spill Stock Pile Equipment is purchased and the list will be submitted to MEMAC.

**4) Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment**

It is under process.

**5) The Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building the Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances**

It is under process.

**6) The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Program**

This initiative is supported.

**7) Customs and Immigration Procedures.**

All the necessary procedures in this regard are in place.

**8) Update of the List of Contacts in Case of Emergency**

It is updated and will be sent to MEMAC.

**14.1.8 United Arab Emirates**

Mr. Mohammed Al Zaabi, OSRO Members, briefed the Meeting with the latest development with regard to their status as follows:

**1) The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

With regard to the Oil Spill Contingency Plan, in 2007, the National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA) was established to cater of all disasters with UAE. Therefore, the National Oil spill Contingency Plan is under the process of development. The OPRC convention is at the latest stage of ratification.

**2) The Development of the National HNS Contingency Plan.**

It is under process.

**3) Update of the Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles**

It is updated and a copy will be sent to MEMAC.

**4) Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment**

It is under consideration and is under the authority NCEMA.

**5) The Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building the Data Banks of Chemicals and Hazardous Substances**

It is under process.



**6) The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Program**

This initiative is supported and MEMAC is asked to assist in this regard.

**7) Customs and Immigration Procedures.**

All the necessary procedures in this regard are in place.

**8) Update of the List of Contacts in Case of Emergency**

It is updated and will be sent to MEMAC.

**14.2 The Oil Spill Emergency Drill, Exercising the National Contingency Plan and the Regional Arrangements.**

MEMAC Director Captain Al-Janahi briefed the Meeting about the Regional Exercise which has been carried out by all Member States excepting the State of Qatar and R. of Iraq. The plan was to have exercise with State of Qatar last year but due to lengthy preparations and administration obstacles, the exercise was delayed till the year 2015.

The representatives of the State of Qatar agreed to commence the preparations for the Regional exercise at the earliest as it is a lengthy preparation and planning process for the exercise scenario. They requested MEMAC and its experts to commence the entire process.

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