

ROPME
SEA KAPs



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**PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON
MARPOL IMPLEMENTATION**



BAHRAIN, 26 FEBRUARY 2000

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision 4.2.3. of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee (4th December 1999), a preparatory meeting for the Regional Steering Committee was held in MEMAC's office in Bahrain on 26 February 2000. The main objective of the meeting was to prepare a Strategic Action Plan for ratification and implementation of MARPOL 73/78, including review and discussion of :

- the terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee ;
- the terms of reference for the National Steering Committee ;
- the national plans for implementation of the feasibility study ;
- the concept of a tender document ;
- tasks to be carried out before the next meeting.



The Meeting was attended by experts from ROPME Member States and representatives of the GCC Secretariat, GAOCMAO and UNEP as well as the IMO Consultant and also the professional staff of MEMAC.



OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was opened by a welcome statement from H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of ROPME delivered, on his behalf by Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director. He welcomed the participants to the Meeting and stated the critical importance of the meeting in setting up the action for the final phase of the long road to acceptance/ratification of MARPOL 73/78 by Member States and the subsequent grant of Special Area status for our Region. Further, he stated that it is essential that the Regional Steering Committee is given the appropriate authority and working time to establish National Steering Committees and to maintain linkage between the two Committees. Also, he emphasised the importance of identification and designation of Ministries which will have the responsibility for the implementation of the MARPOL 73/78 in Member States.

In his opening statement, the IMO Consultant, Mr. H. Brathaug, assured the participants of IMO's full support for this important initiative. The lack of reception facilities pose a serious threat to the marine environment, to fishermen's livelihood, to the tourist industry and other beach-users and also to the desalination plants in the Region. By agreeing on a Strategic Action Plan for ratification, implementation and enforcement of MARPOL including the provision of Reception Facilities for ship generated waste, this Meeting would take an important step towards the goal, which is to be implemented in place in the Region by July 2002.

Mr. H. Brathaug, introduced the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), consisting of two parts, one dealing with ratification and implementation of MARPOL and the other dealing with the Provision of Reception Facilities in the Region. The SAP is based on the recommendations given in the Feasibility Study carried out by Carl Bro International and approved by the ROPME Executive Committee Meeting held in Tehran on 4 December 1999.

He also advised the meeting that the two most important elements in the initial phase are the establishment of a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and National Steering Committees (NSC). The aim is to have a regional approach on a national level by having the Chairman of the NSC be his country's representative on the RSC and also to request the NSC's to submit regular progress reports to the RSC.

Mr. Yousif Zainal, Legal Advisor - MEMAC, explained briefly the link between UNCLOS (The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) and MARPOL. He explained that UNCLOS provides a general framework within which to address operational pollution but leaves the specifics to "generally accepted international rules and standards for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from vessels". This refers especially to the discharge standards and the construction and equipment requirements of MARPOL. He further mentioned that UNCLOS has been ratified by Bahrain (1985), Kuwait (1986), Oman (1989) and Saudi Arabia (1996).





Iran, Qatar and UAE have signed but not yet ratified the Convention.

The meeting discussed the following items and approved their contents :

- Terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee
- Terms of reference for the National Steering Committee
- The National Plans for the Implementation of the Feasibility Study
- The Concept of the Tender Documents

The meeting also discussed and agreed upon the following :

- Identification of Regional Steering Committee Tasks for the coming Meeting

Government officials of the Steering Committee were requested to carry out the following tasks and report to the next meeting of the Committee through MEMAC;

- i) Identify which National Ministry is responsible for ratification and implementation of MARPOL including ensuring the provision of reception facilities.
- ii) Facilitate the establishment of the National Steering Committee.



- iii) Report the outcome of National Steering Committee Meetings to the Regional Steering Committee through MEMAC.

- Future Course of Action

The meeting requested MEMAC to send expediting letters to urge Member States who have not yet formed National Steering Committees to do so without delay.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

On behalf of H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of ROPME, Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director expressed his thanks to all the participants from Member States, representatives of GCC, GAOCMAO and UNEP for their spirit of cooperation and valuable input which greatly contributed to the successful conclusion of the meeting. He also thanked the IMO Consultant for his dedicated efforts in preparing the Strategic Action Plan for MARPOL Implementation together with the Terms of Reference and assistance in the preparations for the Meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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