Highlights from Quarter 4

Following an exceptionally busy Q3, GISEA continued to engage and support the ASEAN Member States, and the wider community, in Q4 2019, towards capacity building in oil spill preparedness. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the National and Industry Focal Points, the IMO, IPIECA and all working partners for enabling the Project to deliver on its mission. There were a number of successes in 2019; we look forward to new endeavours and greater achievements in the coming year.

2019, In Numbers

Building on previous preparedness missions to identify the needs of ASEAN Member States, 2019 saw GISEA achieving our widest reach; the number of activities completed under the auspices of the Project, with the support of the IMO, through the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), and key partners, is summarised below:

- 1 regional workshop and meeting on the ASEAN Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, hosted by Malaysia;
- 1 sub-regional 'train-the-trainer' training on IMO OPRC Model Courses, hosted by the Philippines; and
- 3 national workshops on contingency planning in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, respectively.

In addition, GISEA also participated/ presented in the following:

- 2 meetings of the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group;
- 1 sub-regional forum and meeting under the 'Straits of Malacca and Singapore' framework;
- 1 sub-regional pollution response exercise, led by the Philippines;
- 1 national exercise in Thailand;
- 2 preparedness activities in Myanmar;
- 2 conferences/ forums with international/ regional focus in Australia and Singapore;
- 1 conference with regional/ national focus in Myanmar; and
- 1 regional conference focused on 'Women in Maritime', hosted by WIMA in Malaysia.

We are hopeful the year ahead will be equally eventful, if not more!
GISEA Participation in ICOPCE 2019, Singapore

Organised by the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore, the biennial International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition (ICOPCE) provides a forum which spotlights the management of pollution from chemical and oil cargoes. The 2019 conference was held on 22-23 Oct.

At the invite of MPA, GISEA presented on the effort by the Project to support oil spill preparedness in Southeast Asia; emphasis was placed on the implementation of the recently adopted regional framework to bridge national capabilities and enhance regional cooperation. This further promoted the Global Initiative (GI) Programme as a key example of government-industry collaboration in capacity building towards oil spill preparedness.

GISEA also observed the conduct of the ChemSpill exercise, held in tandem.

GISEA Participation in MCM 2019, Yangon, Myanmar

Maritime Conference Myanmar (MCM) 2019, the second in the series organised by the Myanmar Nautical Association (MNA), was held in Yangon, on 6-7 Nov.

At the invite of MNA and the Department of Marine Administration (DMA), GISEA presented on the ongoing effort to support oil spill preparedness in Myanmar, along with key partners; this was framed in the context of risks in the region, and integration between the National and Regional Framework. The progress made, following the country’s accession to OPRC, was highlighted.

GISEA also participated in the panel discussion on 'Safeguarding the marine environment of Myanmar'.

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

IPIECA Week in London, 30 Mar - 3 Apr

For more information, visit our website at http://www.gisea.org
National workshop in Viet Nam

GISEA supported the ongoing effort by the Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE) to review and update the oil spill preparedness and response framework in Viet Nam, in the conduct of a national workshop between 26 and 29 Nov. It was attended by 40 participants from some 10 government entities, and the oil and gas and shipping industry.

Held over 4 days, the workshop encompassed training on technical subjects, catered to an audience with strategic roles and responsibilities, and a stakeholder engagement session. The dialogue serves to enable actions to: 1) update and finalise the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP); and 2) implement the relevant instruments.

Accession to OPRC was also discussed, as part of Viet Nam’s plan to become party to the treaty.

Increased traffic to GISEA Website

We are encouraged by a significant increase in the number of visits to the GISEA Website throughout 2019, compared to the year before. On average, visitors also browsed more contents on the site, which corresponded with a longer duration per session.

A breakdown on locations where the web traffic originated indicates a growing interest in GISEA from beyond the ASEAN region, in particular, the United States, the United Kingdom, China and India. This may be attributed to the presence of the Project at various international and regional events, coupled with the promotion of the website as an information portal on oil spill preparedness in Southeast Asia.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions, to enable continual improvements to enhance the utility of the website to all stakeholders and users.