

Global Initiative Southeast Asia

QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION

OCT 2020

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

All activities are postponed
until further notice.

The IMO encourages Member
States and stakeholders to stay
abreast of the latest, and
comprehensive, COVID-19
guidance provided on the [IMO
Website](http://www.imo.org).



Highlights from Quarter 3

As governments and industry grapple with challenges arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the imperative to maintain focus on oil spill preparedness and response is heightened by recent incidents around the world.

GISEA continues to maintain our outreach to the National Focal Points and key stakeholders, as we explore with the IMO and Industry, means to provide remote support to the different administrations. While the situation continues to evolve, the resumption of in-country GISEA activities would not be expected in the immediate future, against varied impacts to the respective ASEAN Member States; the safety and well being of personnel remains the foremost consideration.

39th Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting

The virtual meeting, held on 27 Aug, was hosted by the Marine Department of Thailand, and coordinated by the ASEAN Secretariat.

GISEA normally attends the MTWG Meeting as a Dialogue Partner under the IMO-ASEAN Partnership; against the ongoing pandemic, GISEA participated in the session as an observer. Mr. Bekir Sitki Ustaoglu, Head of the Asia and Pacific Section, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO, provided, on behalf of GISEA, updates on the planned 2020 activities to the Meeting; notably, these activities are supported by the IMO through the [Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme \(ITCP\)](http://www.imo.org).

GISEA seeks to continue our engagement with the regional forum which brings together, all member states of ASEAN.

For more information, visit our
website at
<http://www.gisea.org>



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The oil and gas industry remains committed to ensuring the wellbeing of the communities where they operate, and the health and safety of their workers, as they continue to provide the world with the power it needs.

Good practice and guidance on oil spill preparedness and response during the pandemic can be found on the [IPIECA Website](#).

GISEA At a Glance: New Information Pamphlet

GISEA has published a new [information pamphlet](#) which provides, at a glance, condensed information on the Global Initiative (GI) programme jointly led by the IMO and IPECA, and GISEA.

It is intended for the pamphlet to solicit interest from relevant stakeholders, and invite participation in the Project; please feel free to download and circulate the bite-size document within your networks.

Spotlight on National Activities

The COVID-19 Pandemic has bought about a suspension of activities planned for in 2020, under the auspices of GISEA; notwithstanding, continued efforts by the ASEAN Member States to build capacity in oil spill preparedness and response, against conflicting priorities, proved encouraging.

In this issue of the Quarterly Newsletter, the spotlight is centred on the following activities in the Littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Details and links to news articles (from public domain) can be found on the [GISEA website](#).

Indonesia

1. Consignment discussion to ratify OPRC
2. National forum on Tier-3 response to oil spills

Malaysia

1. National Oil Spill Contingency Planning Workshop
2. Workshop on Oiled Wildlife Response
3. Workshop on Oil Pollution Act and draft regulations on oil pollution from ships and marine installations

Singapore

1. Joint Oil Spill Exercise

To recap, in an earlier [Joint-Communiqué](#) to national authorities, the IMO and IPIECA, as the principals underpinning the GI Programme, affirmed their commitment to support countries to remain prepared for marine pollution incidents during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

GISEA will leverage on the collective experience of both governments and industry, and facilitate access to technical expertise; this enables constructive dialogue on divergent issues, and promotes the adoption of international good practice. ASEAN Member States are encouraged to engage with GISEA, and other relevant Regional Programmes, to seek assistance to prepare for a possible spill response during this pandemic, or help sustain capacity building efforts.



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In Focus: FAQ on IMO's role in the response to the oil spill resulting from the grounding of 'M/V Wakashio'

The grounding of the bulk carrier 'M/V Wakashio' off the coast of Mauritius in July, and resulting oil spill, garnered worldwide attention; it also brought into focus, the role played by the IMO in the response to the incident, in addition to the global regulation of the shipping industry.

In response, the IMO has published a dedicated [FAQ](#) page on their website. A [statement](#) has also been issued to address and clarify factually inaccurate reporting in certain media outlets.

Continued Learning: Webinar Series by GIWACAF and Technical Resources

Between June and September, the GIWACF Project delivered 3 webinars on subjects core to oil spill preparedness and response; these were well attended, with participation from audiences in Southeast Asia. Recordings from the sessions can be found on the [GIWACAF Website](#).

To recap, the webinars are open to the general population, to encourage continued learning, in lieu of traditional workshops and seminars; the series continues in Q4.

Numerous technical resources are publicly available to supplement the webinars; links to libraries and publications by various associations and organisations worldwide, relating to different subjects on oil spill preparedness and response, can be accessed from the [GISEA Website](#). The GI projects will continue to explore means to provide technical support to countries during these challenging times.

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