

Global Initiative Southeast Asia

UPDATES FROM THE REGION

APR 2022

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

Our Vision

A trusted and visible partner to ASEAN Member States in oil spill preparedness and response, jointly steered by governments and Industry.

Our Mission

Improve the regional capability in Southeast Asia, by assisting in the development of national capacities in oil spill preparedness and response, through government and industry cooperation.



Highlights from Quarter 1, 2022

While GISEA started the year with renewed optimism on the recovery of the region, disruptions continued for much of Q1, against uncertainties brought by the evolving pandemic; this brought into question, a sustained resumption of activities in 2022. Recent developments have, however, lessened such concerns.

Noting a more positive outlook, GISEA continues to leverage the momentum in the past year and use of technology to enable programme delivery; the Project remains committed to support the efforts of our partner countries to strengthen national, sub-regional and regional capabilities in oil spill preparedness and response.

As GISEA takes stock of its progress in the '2021-2023 Triennium', we seek to build on the lessons from the pandemic and experience of other regional GI Projects, and rejuvenate our approach towards capacity-building, guided by our vision and mission.

Update: Remote Legal Assistance

To recap, GISEA, with the assistance of the IMO and key technical partners, launched the 'Remote Legal Assistance to ASEAN Member States on the Effective Implementation of IMO Conventions Relating to Oil Pollution and Liability and Compensation' last October. Two international consultants, each representing the administration and academia, have lent their expertise and experience to support the legal review for 8 participating ASEAN Member States.

Following the [kick-off meeting and workshop](#), GISEA has since completed the engagement with the respective agencies/ administrations from the participating countries to further study their respective national legislative framework and clarify administrative arrangements. Recommendations to enhance and strengthen relevant provisions would be provided, aligned to the international conventions and good practice.

GISEA would like to once again express our appreciation to the National Focal Points for their patience and continued interest. For further information, please contact us at gisea.manager@ipieca.org.

Ongoing: Remote Legal Assistance to Participating ASEAN Member States, Oct 2021 - Q2 2022

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



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Remote National Workshop on OPRC, Timor Leste, 9 - 13 May (GISEA as delivery platform)

Interspill 2022, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 21-23 Jun (poster presentation by GISEA)

SSRN MARPOLEX, Makassar, Indonesia, June - TBC



Co-operation Forum (CF), Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG) Meeting, and Project Coordination Committee (PCC) Meeting, under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environment Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Malaysia, July - TBC

42nd ASEAN MTWG Meeting

The 42nd meeting of the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) was hosted remotely by the Viet Nam Maritime Administration (Vinamarine), and coordinated by the ASEAN Secretariat.

GISEA attended the Meeting alongside the IMO, as a Dialogue Partner under the IMO-ASEAN Partnership; updates on planned 2022 activities, supported by the IMO through the [Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme \(ITCP\)](#), were provided.

A repeat call was made to the ASEAN Member States to inform and update GISEA on:

1. requests for assistance on capacity building; and
2. national or regional activities on oil spill preparedness, to allow consideration for areas that benefit from technical support, collaboration and publicity.

Remote National Workshop on Managing Oil Spill Incidents Philippines

GISEA supported the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in the delivery of a national workshop on incident management, between 14 and 16 Mar; this marked the first national activity held under the auspices of the Project during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

With an overarching objective to support the implementation of recently published guidelines and standing procedures on the mobilisation of the National Strike Force (NSF) to respond to Tier-2 and Tier-3 oil spill incidents, the event brought together, some 40 participants from different coast guard districts and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The programme spanned 3 half-days, comprised of a mixture of presentations and group activities designed to strengthen and refresh the knowledge of incident commanders, planners and responders on the principles of planning for, and responding to oil spill incident.

GISEA will continue to support PCG to strengthen their incident management capability, and enhance their capacity in oil pollution preparedness and response



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Resource: Dispersant Decision Toolkit

Ipieca and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) have launched a new '[Dispersant decision toolkit](#)', produced with support from Oil Spill Response Limited. It draws together, information and technical guidance on the use of dispersant in a clear and concise infographic poster and animated video to help responders determine if dispersant use is appropriate.

The resource can be downloaded from the [ipieca website](#).

Resource: e-Learning Platform by IMO

The IMO has launched its first 'free-to-access' course on its e-Learning platform, on the sideline of the recently concluded Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) Sub-Committee Meeting.

'[An Introduction to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation](#)' is designed to provide a basic introduction to those involved in, or whom, have an interest in matters related to oil pollution preparedness and response, whether from within the oil spill response community or the maritime sector.

IMO has developed a number of e-Learning courses with the purpose of increasing the capacity of Member States to effectively implement IMO instruments. This series of e-Learning courses is being developed in collaboration with the World Maritime University (WMU), in recognition that distance learning has become key in meeting the changing educational needs of students and maritime professionals in the industry.

UNEP Global Webinar Series

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and their partners are delivering a webinar series on '[Strengthening National Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in Environmentally Sensitive Areas](#)'. Comprising 3 90-min webinars, it is targeted at policy makers, regulators, civil society, academia, industry and the general public.

The following topics would be discussed:

1. Implementing international conventions to strengthen national oil spill contingency planning and risk reduction;
2. Environmental sensitivity mapping for oil spill preparedness and response; and
3. Oil spill response methods and strategies in environmentally sensitive areas

Details can be found on the [UNEP website](#).

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Spotlight: Sub-regional Arrangements

In previous issues of Quarterly Newsletter, the spotlight was centred on [regional arrangements](#) on oil spill preparedness and response.

This issue highlights existing [sub-regional arrangements](#) which pre-date the regional framework, and remain significant to the countries involved; this would be understood against the disparate geography of the region.

Attention is paid to following long-standing arrangements:

1. Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Oil Spill Response Network (SSRN) Plan;
2. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS); and
3. Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in Gulf of Thailand (GoT).

The SSRN Plan was first mooted in 1981 under the auspices of the IMO (then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, IMCO) and UNEP, and initially agreed between Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. While the substance of the Plan has evolved over time, it instituted the the series of biennale Marine Pollution Exercises (MARPOLEX) to validate and strengthen interoperability between the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Sea and Coast Guard, Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST), Indonesia, to respond to major oil spill incidents in the territorial waters of Indonesia and the Philippines.

Covering a remit which spans one of the busiest shipping routes in the world, the [SOP for Joint Oil Spill Combat in SOMS](#) is maintained by the [Revolving Fund Committee \(RFC\)](#). Established in 1981, the RFC is a cooperation between the Littoral States, users of SOMS, and the Malacca Strait Council (MSC) of Japan. States can draw an advance from the Fund, for the purpose of taking immediate remedial action in the event of any incident of oil pollution caused by ships in SOMS; amounts drawn will be repaid when clean-up costs are recovered from the parties responsible.

The Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in Gulf of Thailand (GoT) defines the framework programme adopted by Thailand, Cambodia and the southern region of Viet Nam, under the Auspices of the Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). Since the beginning of the GoT Cooperation in 2006, significant progress has been made in oil spill preparedness among the Littoral States; a key achievement was the publication of an [Environmental Sensitivity Index Atlas for the Gulf of Thailand](#).

GISEA will continue to encourage the integration of sub-regional arrangements into the current regional framework, and harmonisation of policies across ASEAN Member States.