

Global Initiative Southeast Asia

UPDATES FROM THE REGION

JUL 2021

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

Activities in the presential format 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](#).

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.

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

Highlights from Quarter 2 2021

As the year unfolds, the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to disrupt the work of GISEA, against a fluid situation in the region.

The importance to maintain focus on oil spill preparedness and response is, however, not lost. Following deliberate planning, GISEA is now ready to commence an activity to remotely review the legislative framework in each of our partner countries, to support accession to, and effective implementation of key international conventions on oil pollution preparedness and response, and liability and compensation.

GISEA maintains optimism on the readiness of ASEAN Member States to resume capacity-building activities, and remains committed to support their efforts strengthen national, sub-regional and regional capabilities in oil spill preparedness and response.

Succession and Renewal: GISEA Project Co-Chairs

In Quarter 2, GISEA welcomed its new [Co-Chairpersons](#).

Mr. Anurag Gupta, the Regional Response Manger for the Oil Spill Expertise Centre of Shell, succeeded Mr. M C Madayya of Chevron. Anurag represents the Industry Membership of GISEA.

Ms. Julke Brandt, Technical Officer from the Marine Environment Division of the International Maritime Organization, replaced Mr. Clément Chazot, who has since embarked on new endeavours.

GISEA would like to thank Mr. Madayya and Mr. Chazot for their contributions, and looks forward to a successful triennium (2021-2023) under the guidance of Mr. Gupta and Ms. Brandt.



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION JUL 2021

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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](#).



Series of events/ technical sessions leading up to the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2021 (Refer to the [EAS Congress 2021 Website](#) for details and information relating to oil spill preparedness)

IPIECA Oil Spill Group Meeting, 14-15 Jul (Remote)

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

14th Annual Meeting of Gulf of Thailand (GoT) Cooperation National Contact Points

At the invite of PEMSEA, GISEA participated in the 14th annual meeting of the National Contact Points on the implementation of the [Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand \(GoT\)](#), hosted remotely by the Marine Department of Thailand on 23 Apr, with the support of PEMSEA. In addition to the littoral states of Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, there was representation from the IMO, GISEA and OSRL.

GISEA provided a review of preparedness activities conducted in 2020 under the auspices of the Project, which are relevant to GoT. The Meeting was also informed of the [GISEA Strategic Focus for the 2021-2023 triennium](#), and provided an outlook of activities for 2021, based on events already announced and projected needs of the countries.

GISEA will continue work with PEMSEA to support the development of robust national and sub-regional arrangements, to strengthen oil pollution preparedness and response in the GoT sub-region.

GISEA Presented at IOSC 2021

The [International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) is part of a triennial series of events which include Interspill in Europe and Spillcon in the Asia-Pacific region. Initially scheduled to be held in 2020, it was postponed, owing to restrictions which resulted from the ongoing pandemic, and held as a fully virtual conference on May 10-14.

GISEA, along the GIWACAF and OSPRI, co-authored the following papers:

- Domestication of international regulation as a fundamental step to developing preparedness and response; and
- Measuring progress in oil spill preparedness.

These were presented in the session '[PS7-05: A Decade of Industry Developments: Regional Government/ Individual Programs](#)' on 12 May.

The conference proceedings can be accessed through this [link](#). For further discussion on the subjects, please contact us at gisea.manager@pieca.org.



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION JUL 2021

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

Remote Legal Assistance to Participating ASEAN Member States, Aug - Dec

Interspill 2022: Call for Papers
Submission deadline: 30 Sep

Planning and Signing Conference for Regional MARPOLEX (SSRN)

Based primarily on the [Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Oil Spill Response Network \(SSRN\) Plan](#) agreed between Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in 1981, the series of biennale Marine Pollution Exercises (MARPOLEX) serve 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.

In preparation for MARPOLEX 2022, which will be held in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, PCG hosted a remote Planning and Signing Conference on 30 Jun. Participants from the coast guard units of Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan discussed, and broadly agreed, the operational plans for the conduct of the exercise.

At the invite of PCG, GISEA observed the proceedings of the conference. Through the continued support to the conduct of MARPOLEX, GISEA seeks opportunities to promote integration between the existing sub-regional arrangements and the [regional framework](#) agreed upon between the ASEAN Member States.

Spotlight: Regional Arrangements

In the last issue of the Quarterly Newsletter, the spotlight was centred on the [Revolving Fund Committee \(RFC\)](#); this issue highlights the [Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response \(ASEAN MoU\)](#).

The [evolution of a mechanism for regional cooperation and mutual assistance spanned more than 20 years](#), starting with the MoU on establishing an ASEAN Oil Spill Response Action Plan (ASEAN OSRAP), initiated by Japan, and agreed between the 6 Member States in 1993. As the ASEAN Membership expanded between 1995 and 1999, the implementation of of the original OSRAP proved challenging.

With strong support from the the IMO to revitalise the regional arrangements, a series of workshops were held between 2009 and 2013 to review and revise the ASEAN OSRAP MoU. The revised text of the MoU was agreed at the 28th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting, and [endorsed at the 20th ASEAN Transport Ministers \(ATM\) Meeting](#) in Nov 2014.

The ASEAN MoU closely follows principles laid forth in the [International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation \(OPRC\)](#), and requires the development of a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP) - this was adopted in 2018.

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QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION JUL 2021

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On the Horizon: Remote Legal Assistance

To recap, GISEA seeks to adapt the ‘three-step’ approach adopted by GIWACAF to guide its programme implementation in the 2021-2023 triennium. This approach, introduced in 2015, focuses on: 1) legislation; 2) policies; and 3) tools. A key feature of this framework is the recognition that the domestication of international conventions is fundamental to an effective national preparedness and response system.

The success of a pilot activity to provide [remote legal assistance to 4 beneficiary countries within the remit of GIWACAF](#) demonstrates the value of a renewed approach to technical assistance provided through the GI programme which focuses on legal, regulatory and policy matters.

In this regard, GISEA, with the assistance of the IMO and key technical partners, seeks to leverage the experience of GIWACAF and adapt the effort to benefit its partner countries. The objectives of the activity are listed below:

- Encourage ASEAN Member States to accede to the conventions identified, with particular emphasis on the most current protocols, as appropriate; and
- Support the countries to effectively implement key provisions in the different instruments within each jurisdiction, with the aim to harmonise policies across the region to support the implementation of the ASEAN MoU.

8 of the 10 ASEAN Member States would participate in this review.

Following delays due to number of administrative challenges, it is expected that this activity will commence shortly. GISEA would like to express our appreciation to the National Focal Points for the patience and continued interest. Updates will be provided on the [GISEA Website](#) and next issue of the Quarterly Newsletter.