

Global Initiative Southeast Asia

UPDATES FROM THE REGION

APR 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 4 2020 - Quarter 1 2021

2020 was a year which will be remembered for challenges brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic; what was once seemingly unimaginable became the new normal. It also marked the conclusion of the '2018-2020 Triennium' for the GISEA Project. While GISEA sought to leverage the successes and momentum in 2019 to further our work, disruptions to the delivery of project activities created an imperative to consider means to provide remote support to the different administrations.

In the year past, the importance of maintaining focus on oil spill preparedness and response was heightened by numerous incidents around the world. As GISEA embarks on the new triennium, we will continue to engage the ASEAN Member States and key stakeholders, and support their efforts to strengthen national, sub-regional and regional capabilities.

As we progress through 2021, we remain optimistic that ASEAN Member States would be ready to resume capacity-building activities. Notwithstanding, it is not expected that face-to-face engagements across borders would be conducted in the immediate future; the safety and well-being of personnel remains the foremost consideration.

IPIECA OSG: Connecting the GI Regional Projects

Amidst disruptions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, coupled with remote working arrangements becoming a norm for many, the [IPIECA Oil Spill Group \(OSG\)](#) initiated regular meetings which brought together, the IMO, OSG and GI regional projects.

First held in Q2 2020, the fortnightly catch-up exemplifies how the GI projects have adapted to prevailing circumstances and found opportunities to cooperate, leveraging technology to enhance communication on matters of common interest, and enable the sharing of resources to support programme delivery.

It would be recognised that internal engagement within the GI programme is as equally important as the outreach effort to engage various stakeholders. As GISEA enters the next triennium, the Project would benefit from lessons learned by other GI regional projects, and good management practice established in each.

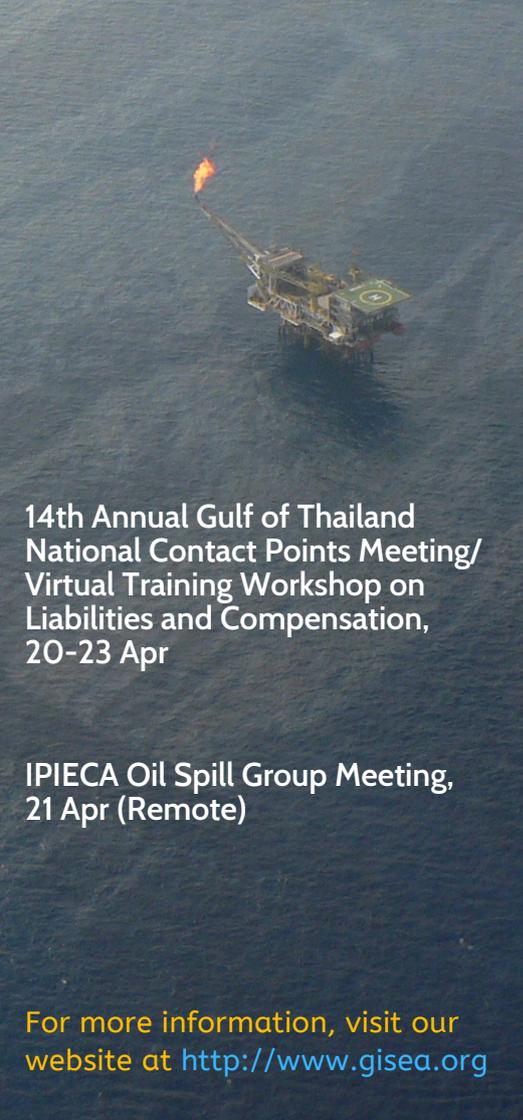


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The oil and gas industry remains committed to ensuring the wellbeing of the communities where they operate, and the health and safety of their workers, as they continue to provide the world with the power it needs.

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



14th Annual Gulf of Thailand National Contact Points Meeting/ Virtual Training Workshop on Liabilities and Compensation, 20-23 Apr

IPIECA Oil Spill Group Meeting, 21 Apr (Remote)

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

GISEA 2018-2020 Triennium: Highlights and Successes

Since its launch in 2013, GISEA has played an active role to assist the strengthening of oil spill preparedness and response across Southeast Asia. Through engagement with the National Focal Points and local industry, the Project has, over time, built a picture on the state of oil spill preparedness across the ASEAN region.

Notable progress was made towards enhancing existing arrangements within each ASEAN Member State, and supporting the development of a cooperation framework for the region. These achievements should be understood against the ASEAN context and challenges inherent to a very diverse region; highlights from the 2018-2020 Triennium are elaborated below:

- 1) At the regional level, the adoption of a [Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan \(ROSCP\)](#) by the ASEAN Member States in 2018, represents a key achievement facilitated by GISEA. The framework document is a culmination of efforts which spanned 4 years, beginning in 2014, driven by the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) under the ASEAN MoU, and with strong support from the IMO. It marks a significant milestone in the journey to bridge national capacities and build a credible regional capability.
- 2) At the national level, GISEA provided close support to Myanmar on the development of its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, following the country's accession to OPRC in 2016. At the invite of the Department of Marine Administration (DMA), GISEA provided technical input to the National Task Force during 2017-2018. Subsequently, a [national consultation workshop and table-top exercise](#) was delivered under the auspices of the Project in November 2018 to roll out the final draft of the national plan. Following further revision, the plan was approved in November 2020, and will be officially promulgated at a later time.
- 3) GISEA also provided active support to the Philippine Coast Guard to update the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of the Philippines. Through a series of workshops held under the auspices of the Project between 2014 and 2018, various stakeholders and key agencies were brought together to address gaps in the preparedness and response framework, and clarify roles and responsibilities. The [revised plan](#) was approved and promulgated in October 2019.

Overall, GISEA achieved its widest reach in the last triennium, with the support of the IMO and industry members; by the same token, the breadth of activities delivered is noteworthy. While it is desirable to leverage the momentum, disruptions which resulted from pandemic, nevertheless, present opportunities to explore new approaches towards programme delivery; the experience will serve GISEA in the new triennium.



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GISEA 2021-2023 Triennium: Moving Forward

As GISEA matures, it is opportune to align the approach to capacity building with other regional projects; of particular relevance is the **'three-step' framework adopted by GIWACAF**, coupled with sets of qualitative indicators to measure progress.

The 'three-step' approach, introduced in 2015 to capture the 'systemic and evolutive dimensions of oil spill preparedness and response (*source: GIWACAF*)', 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.

In the 2021-2023 Triennium, GISEA seeks to deliver on its mission by adapting the 'three-step' approach to guide its programme implementation. The 'GISEA Areas of Focus' would be integrated into the framework, coupled with the adoption of progress indicators founded on international good practice.

The strategic aims for the new triennium are listed, as follows:

- 1) Legislation:** Assist ASEAN Member States to develop or strengthen their respective national legislative and regulatory frameworks, to support accession to relevant IMO Conventions, and transposition to domestic laws;
- 2) Contingency Planning:** Assist ASEAN Members States to develop or enhance their respective national oil spill contingency plans, and preparedness and response systems;
- 3) Training and Exercise:** Assist ASEAN Member States to develop or enhance their respective national training and exercise programmes;
- 4) Tools:** Promote the use of assessment tools incorporating international good practice, to systematically evaluate preparedness across ASEAN Member States;
- 5) Cooperation:** Support ASEAN Member States to implement the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP), and encourage integration of the regional cooperation mechanism into bilateral and sub-regional arrangements; and
- 6) Industry Membership:** Enhance outreach to maintain and grow GISEA Membership, to render the Project truly sustainable.

International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) 2021, 10 - 14 May (Virtual)

The GI projects will be presenting on 15 May, during session PS7-05: *A Decade of Industry Developments: Regional Government/Individual Programs*. See [programme](#) for details.

IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 76th session, 10 - 17 Jun (Remote)





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Spotlight on Sub-regional Activities

In the last issue of the Quarterly Newsletter, the spotlight was centred on national activities in the Littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. This issue highlights the [Revolving Fund Committee \(RFC\)](#), which maintains oversight for the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Established in 1981, the Revolving Fund is a co-operation between the Littoral States, users of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (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.

Malaysia, which chairs the RFC from 2016 - 2021, hosted the 39th annual meeting of the RFC on 12 Nov 2020. Held remotely, the meeting discussed, among other issues, administration and operations of the Fund, and actions from the RFC Technical Meeting conducted in July. To facilitate a timely response, pre-agreed rates for oil spill resources, similar to those [agreed between Singapore and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation \(ITOPF\)](#), are being considered.

To recap, in a [Joint-Communiqué](#) to national authorities last May, the IMO and IPIECA affirmed their commitment to support countries to remain prepared for marine pollution incidents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. ASEAN Member States are encouraged to engage with GISEA, to seek assistance to prepare for a possible spill response, or help sustain capacity-building efforts.

Engagement with ASCOPE

In conjunction with IPIECA, GISEA held an introductory meeting with the [ASEAN Council on Petroleum \(ASCOPE\)](#) on 26 Jan 2021; this was attended by the Secretariat, headed by Petrovietnam, and the Policy Research and Capability Building (PRCB) Task Force of the council. The engagement served to:

- 1) Introduce IPIECA and GISEA, and associated activities in ASEAN;
- 2) Explain the touchpoints between GISEA and the National Focal Points, typically the maritime administrations; and
- 3) Highlight challenges to oil spill preparedness and response in ASEAN, and opportunities for collaboration between GISEA and various stakeholders.

GISEA seeks to continue the outreach to ASCOPE and the National Oil Companies in ASEAN, and looks forward to future collaboration.



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Focus Group Discussion in Indonesia: Towards Ratification of OPRC

The event, held face-to-face and online on 8 Mar, was attended by approximately 60 participants from the Ministry of Transportation, and other key ministries and agencies assigned with responsibilities to manage oil pollution.

At the invite of the Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST), GISEA presented on the application aspects of OPRC, focused on: 1) Framework for international maritime legislation; 2) Requirements of OPRC; and 3) Significance of domesticating international conventions into national legislation. The regional framework for cooperation in oil spill preparedness and response was also discussed, with emphasis on the harmonisation of national response systems across ASEAN, aligned to OPRC.

GISEA seeks to continue the support to Indonesia, to encourage accession to OPRC, and implement the requirements effectively.

40th ASEAN MTWG Meeting

The virtual meeting, held on 9-10 Mar, 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. Updates on planned 2021 activities, supported by the IMO through the [Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme \(ITCP\)](#), were provided to the Meeting.

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

Continued Learning: Webinar Series by GIWACAF

In 2020, the GIWACAF Project delivered 5 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](#).

The series continues in 2021 - refer to the GIWACAF Website for details. To recap, the webinars are open to the general population, to encourage continued learning in lieu of traditional workshops and seminars. Numerous technical resources are publicly available to supplement the webinars; links to libraries and publications relating to different subjects on oil spill preparedness and response can be accessed from the [GISEA Website](#).

For more information, visit our
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