Highlights from Quarter 4 2021

The uptick in activity in the second half of 2021 brought renewed optimism on the recovery of the region, and a sustained resumption of activities in the new year, albeit in remote and virtual formats.

While GISEA seeks to rejuvenate its approach to programme delivery, and leverage the momentum in the past year to further our work, continued disruptions are expected, against uncertainties posed by the evolving pandemic.

As the Project enters its second year in the ‘2021-2023 Triennium’, we are committed to support the efforts of our partner countries to enhance national, sub-regional and regional capabilities in oil spill preparedness and response. Notwithstanding, the safety and well-being of personnel remains the foremost consideration.

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, will lend their expertise and experience to support the legal review for 8 participating ASEAN Member States.

Following a kick-off meeting and workshop, we have commenced the engagement with the respective agencies/administrations to further study their national legislative framework and clarify administrative arrangements; recommendations to enhance and strengthen relevant provisions, aligned to the international conventions and good practice, would be provided.

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.
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.

2021 In Review

2021 marked the start of a new triennium for the GISEA Project, amidst the ongoing pandemic. In the second quarter, the Project welcomed its new Co-Chairpersons - Mr. Anurag Gupta of Shell, representing the industry membership, and Ms. Julke Brandt, representing the International Maritime Organization. The continued support of industry and the IMO is crucial to the sustenance of GISEA.

While in-country activities remain suspended, we are encouraged by the renewed focus on oil spill preparedness among national administrations across ASEAN and our partners; this is reflected in the increased activity over the course of the year.

The commencement of the remote legal assistance to participating ASEAN Member States represented an important milestone in the implementation of the ‘2021-2023 Strategic Framework’.

In addition, GISEA participated/ presented (remotely) in the following:

- 2 meetings of the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG), hosted by Thailand;
- Planning conference for the 2022 SSRN MARPLOEX, hosted by the Philippines and led by Indonesia;
- 14th Annual Meeting of GoT Cooperation National Contact Points (NCP), hosted by Thailand;
- 2 focus group discussions on the implementation OPRC and protection of the marine environment, hosted by Indonesia;
- Oil Spill Risk Assessment Workshop for port operators in Yangon, held under the auspices of the Department of Marine Administration (DMA), Myanmar;
- Cambodia National Oil Spill Contingency Planning Workshop, initiated through the GoT Cooperation;
- Series of meetings, workshops and technical sessions leading up to the 2021 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, held under the auspices of PEMSEA and their partners;
- International Oil Spill Conference 2021;
- 3 meetings of the IPIECA Oil Spill Group.

We are hopeful the year ahead will be equally eventful.
Focus Group Discussion in Indonesia: Protection of The Marine Environment

The event, held remotely on 16 Nov 2021, was structured to address policy, economic and technological perspectives on the protection of the marine environment, both internationally and in the national context. It was attended by participants from across a spectrum of ministries and agencies with responsibilities to manage marine pollution.

At the invite of the Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST), GISEA presented on the application of technology in the implementation of international maritime legislation, framed by past, current and emerging issues and subjects of interest. Advances in oil spill preparedness and response in the wake of the Macondo well control incident were also highlighted. Central to the discussion is the role of technology as an enabler and accelerator for change.

GISEA seeks to continue the support to Indonesia, to promote dialogue between stakeholders and strengthen capacity in oil spill preparedness and response.