

Global Initiative Southeast Asia

QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION

APR 2020

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

All activities are postponed
until further notice.

Highlights from Quarter 1

2020 began with a positive outlook on national, sub-regional and regional activities for the GISEA Project, to leverage the momentum gained in 2019. The outbreak of COVID-19, which led to strict control measures implemented by numerous countries, including the ASEAN Member States, has, however, disrupted the delivery of planned activities. Against a fluid situation, the ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders continues; GISEA will explore means to provide remote support to the different administrations.

COVID-19 and GISEA: Outlook

Following the decision taken by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday, 11 Mar 2020, to recognise COVID-19 as a Pandemic, and in view of the increasing number of cases worldwide, the IMO has, as a precautionary measure, decided to postpone missions and technical cooperation activities abroad until further notice; this would be in the best interest of the participants, experts and host countries.

A message from the Industry Chairperson of the GISEA Steering Committee, which supplements the above advisory, is reproduced below for reference:

Events arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic have placed us in unprecedented times, and fundamentally affect the work we do. Government instruction and border controls to protect ourselves, and our fellow citizens, have imposed huge but necessary restrictions on many of us.

Within GISEA, we make no distinction between our concern for the health and safety of our beneficiary countries in the ASEAN Region, that of our coordination team, and that of society at large. In this context, as a precautionary measure, and in alignment with United Nations guidelines, we have postponed all physical meetings and activities in the region until further notice. This is in everyone's best interests.

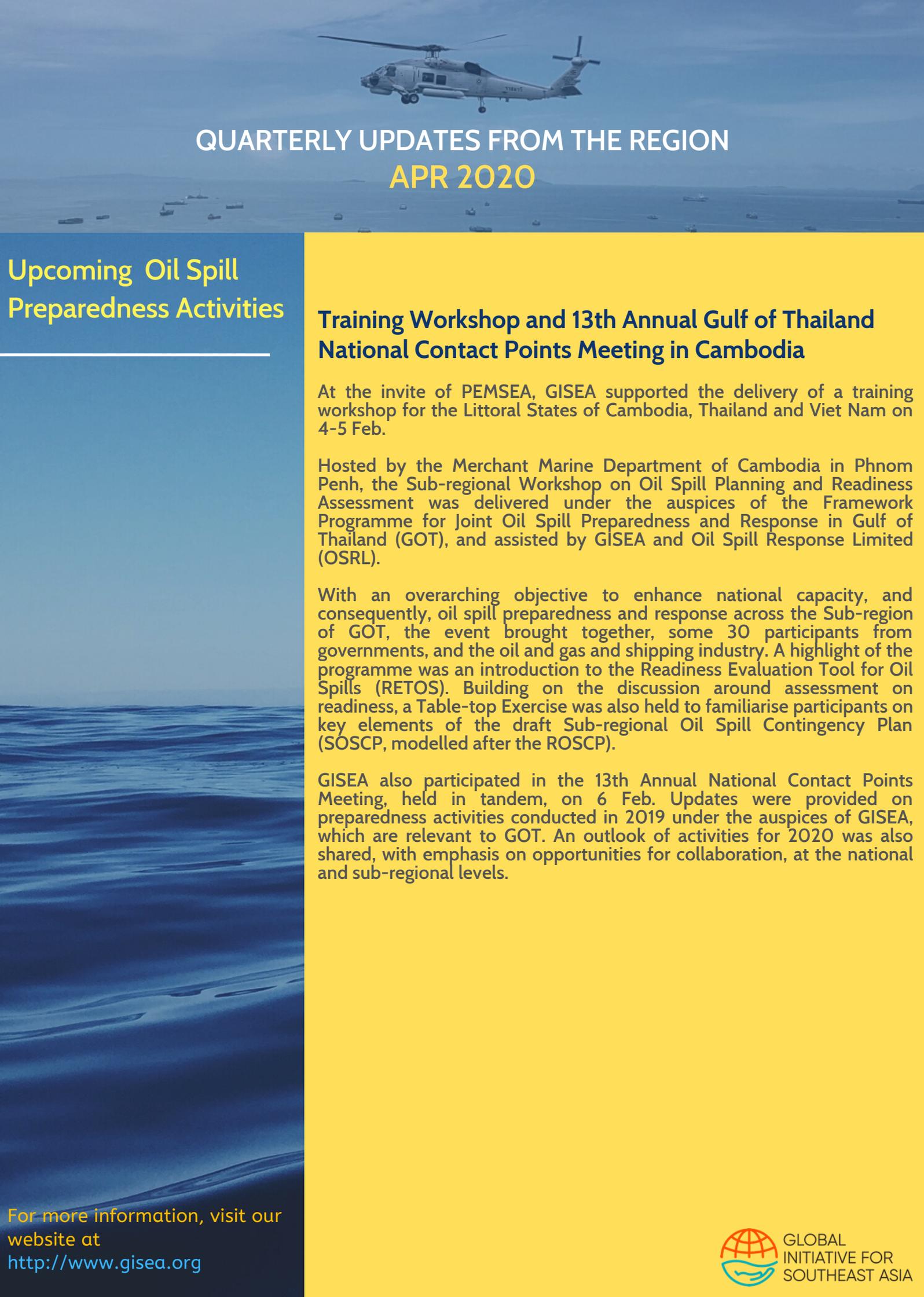
Despite the uncertainty, we will continue our work, for the benefit of the ASEAN Region, our members and partners. While all face-to-face meetings have been postponed, the team continues to operate remotely from Singapore, and maintains digital contact with in-country focal points, industry members, the IMO, IPIECA, and related professionals.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support to GI SEA, to enable the Project to safely deliver the technical cooperation programme during these challenging times. As the situation further develops, we will endeavour to keep you updated.

I wish you and your families good health and best wishes for the challenging months ahead.

M C Madayya

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



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM THE REGION APR 2020

Upcoming Oil Spill Preparedness Activities

Training Workshop and 13th Annual Gulf of Thailand National Contact Points Meeting in Cambodia

At the invite of PEMSEA, GISEA supported the delivery of a training workshop for the Littoral States of Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam on 4-5 Feb.

Hosted by the Merchant Marine Department of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, the Sub-regional Workshop on Oil Spill Planning and Readiness Assessment was delivered under the auspices of the Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in Gulf of Thailand (GOT), and assisted by GISEA and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).

With an overarching objective to enhance national capacity, and consequently, oil spill preparedness and response across the Sub-region of GOT, the event brought together, some 30 participants from governments, and the oil and gas and shipping industry. A highlight of the programme was an introduction to the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS). Building on the discussion around assessment on readiness, a Table-top Exercise was also held to familiarise participants on key elements of the draft Sub-regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (SOSCP, modelled after the ROSCP).

GISEA also participated in the 13th Annual National Contact Points Meeting, held in tandem, on 6 Feb. Updates were provided on preparedness activities conducted in 2019 under the auspices of GISEA, which are relevant to GOT. An outlook of activities for 2020 was also shared, with emphasis on opportunities for collaboration, at the national and sub-regional levels.

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