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கடல்சார் சூழல் பாதுகாப்பு அதிகாரசபை
(சுற்றாடல் மற்றும் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க சக்தி அமைச்சு)
MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY
(Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy)



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எனது இல.
My No.

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

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திகதி
Date

06/MEPA/SACEP/2015

20-03-2015

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South Asia Co-operative Environment programme
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Colombo 05.

Dear Sir

Report on National Preparatory Meeting on Enhancing Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in Sri Lanka, IMO NORAD Project for Enhancing Regional Cooperation Mechanisms on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in South Asian Region

This is further to our letter dated 31 December 2014 on the above subject.

I herewith submit a copy of Report on National Preparatory Meeting on Enhancing Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in Sri Lanka for your information and necessary action please.

This Authority has already submitted receipts for the expenses incurred of the above meeting. You are kindly requested to make necessary arrangement to reimburse the expenses as early as possible.

Your fullest cooperation in this regard is highly appreciated.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully

Ranjith Meegaswatte LLB, LLM (UK)
Attorney-at-Law
Chairman

Report on National Preparatory Meeting on Enhancing Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in Sri Lanka.

**IMO NORAD Project for Enhancing Regional Cooperation Mechanisms on
Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in South Asian Region**

Colombo, Sri Lanka

16-17 December 2014

Prepared by

A.J.M. Gunasekara

Manager Operations

Marine Environment Protection Authority

1. Introduction

The First national preparatory meeting on enhancing marine pollution preparedness and response of Sri Lanka jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the South Asian Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) and hosted by Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) of Sri Lanka, was held at Colombo Sri Lanka from 16 to 17 December 2014.

2. Objectives

The project for Enhancing Regional Cooperation mechanisms on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region has been implemented by the IMO with assistance of NORAD. The long term objective of the project is the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC HNS protocol while the short term objective will be to enhance regional cooperation on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region through an early and effective implementation of the MOU on regional cooperation in case of an emergency and through the revitalization of the regional contingency plan and its entry into force.

The first national preparatory meeting of Sri Lanka focused on following objectives:-

- To review the national oil spill contingency plan of Sri Lanka together with the South Asian regional oil and chemical spill contingency plan and the synchronization of the national contingency plan with the regional contingency plan
- To evaluate capacity building needs to enhance oil and chemical spill combat capability
- To analyze liability and compensation issues related to oil and chemical spills.

3. Opening Ceremony

The meeting was under the chairmanship of Dr. Terney Pradeep Kumara, General Manager, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) who also gave a welcome speech. Mr. Pulakesh Mondal, Senior Program Officer, SACEP, also addressed the participants. Mr. George Franklin, the International Consultant who represented the IMO, also gave a speech.

4. Presentations, Program and Participants

During the meeting, presentations were made by the International Consultant and the Representative of MEPA. Topics covered a wide range of aspects of oil spill combat strategies and limitations, contingency planning, oil spill compensation and liability regimes and the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Sri Lanka.

Group discussions were also held on the second day of the meeting to identify gaps in the national and regional contingency plans and identify capacity building requirements.

A copy of the meeting program and presentations conducted by experts is attached in annex 2 and 3.

The meeting was attended by 50 participants from the following stakeholder agencies - Sri Lanka Port Authority, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Ceylon Petroleum Cooperation, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminal Limited, Colombo Dock yard Ltd, Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat, Sri Lanka Police, Central Environment Authority, Coast Conservation Department, National Aquatic Resources

Development Research Agency, Industrial technology Institute and the Department of Wildlife.

List of participant is attached in the annexes.

5. Key themes

A number of discussion points emerged from the meeting:-

1. The oil pollution risk of the countries in the South Asian region namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, has significantly increased in recent years but the oil spill response capabilities in the region have not been adequately strengthened to manage this risk. Individual countries capability should therefore be developed to address this risk and the regional mechanics should be strengthened.
2. The oil pollution risk in Sri Lankan waters has significantly increased recently due to maritime related development activities such as the establishment of new ports, offshore oil exploration activities, the establishment of oil terminals and the development of bunkering activities. However to face the above risk the oil combat capabilities of the country have not been strengthened.
3. Sri Lanka has formulated a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and taken several measures to implement this plan. The Marine Environment Protection Authority is responsible for formulating and implementing the plan with the help of several stakeholder agencies. However, the oil spill response capabilities need to be developed further.
4. The National Oil Contingency Plan addresses only oil spills. Chemical spill contingency measures should also be incorporated into the Oil Spill Contingency plan in line with South Asian regional oil and chemical spill contingency plan.

5. The detailed oil spill risk assessment has not been carried out since 2003. The oil pollution risk assessment is an important tool in deciding the level of preparedness and the strategies adopted.
6. The National Oil Spill Contingency plan has followed the ITOPF contingency plan format. However there are some deviations. The contingency plan format in regional countries should be the same format and this should be used for the Regional Contingency plan.
7. The Sri Lankan plan adopted the Incident Management System (IMS) as the preferred oil spill management tool. As this system is widely used, it is recommended that the regional contingency plan should adopt IMS as its preferred organization model. It would also be beneficial if this system was adopted by the other countries in SACEP.
8. The Sri Lankan plan has several annexes and all annexures are compatible with the Regional Contingency plan.. The Sri Lanka plan and regional plan use the same POLIREP.
9. The equipment available for Sri Lanka to use in combatting major oil spills is not sufficient, therefore the oil spill combat stockpile list available in other countries should be further developed.
10. Sri Lanka is a party to CLC 1992 and The Fund 1992, however comprehensive national legislation is still not available. As a result of this, in the event of a tanker oil spill there would be issues related to compensation. In addition, there were several bunker oil spills in Sri Lankan waters during recent years but Sri Lanka, so far, has not ratified the Bunker Convention.
11. The OPRC convention has not been signed by Sri Lanka. It is considered vital that Sri Lanka signs this convention and, in addition, due to increase of chemical spill risk in Sri

Lankan waters, the HNS protocol should also be signed. The necessary measures need also to be taken to implement both these conventions.

12. Sufficient funds should be allocated to strengthen of oil spill combat capabilities of the country. However it is recognized that it is difficult to allocate tertiary funds for this purpose. Therefore, the “polluter pays” principle should be considered with levies imposed on ships arriving in Sri Lankan ports. Other SACEP member countries used the same principle and they imposed levies on oil movements with this fund then used to develop oil spill combat capabilities. The regional countries should use such a system which can be easily adopted and enforced.
13. Sri Lanka has given priority to mechanical oil combat strategies and also allowed the use dispersant after carrying out a NEBA (Net Environmental Benefit Analysis). In- situ burning has not been adopted as a response strategy. Future amendments of the plan should address all available oil spill combat strategies and these should be should be evaluated and incorporated into the plan.

6. Working Groups Output.

The Meeting agreed to propose the following recommendations for improving the regional oil spill combat capabilities as well as the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Regional Contingency Plan.

1. All representatives agreed that Sri Lanka should sign the MOU of South Asian Regional oil and Chemical spill contingency plan and take the necessary measures to implement above said plan in the event of major oil spill in the region. (This has been completed.)

2. The oil pollution risk in Sri Lankan waters should be assessed in order to get a better understanding of the required level of preparedness.
3. All representatives agreed that Sri Lanka should become a party to the Bunker convention and comprehensive national legislation should be prepared to implement CLC, Fund and Bunker convention.
4. Sri Lanka should again review the oil spill response strategies that can be used to respond an oil spill. All response tools, including in situ burning, should be considered and circumstances and locations determined when and where these strategies can be adopted.
5. The National Plan should be amended as per an agreed internationally used format. All regional countries should then use the same format.
6. The National Oil Spill contingency plan should be updated to include chemical spills in line with South Asian Regional oil and Chemical Spill Contingency plan.
7. Several stakeholder agencies are involved in the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan implementation but there is no agreement in place between MEPA and these related agencies to cover the responsibilities assigned in the plan. MEPA should address this issue and enter into agreement with all the stakeholder agencies.
8. To strengthen the level of oil spill preparedness, consideration should be given to the establishment of a special fund in each country using the polluter pays principle.
9. The regional oil spill combat equipment stockpile information should be added to the SACEP website. The data base should be password controlled with each national agency having the capability of updating the data base.
10. An online data sharing and communication system should be established in South Asian Regional countries.

11. The necessary training should be given to all officers concerned regarding the IMS system including oil spill combat technologies, oil spill response handling, oil spill response coordination, modern communication systems, beach cleanup, oil spill compensation, oil spill contingency planning, etc.
12. The following changes should be implemented with respect to the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Sri Lanka:-
 - (a) The format and layout of the plan should be to an internationally accepted format.
 - (b) The contingency plan should be relatively short with all agencies responsibilities and data directories contained in the appendices.
 - (c) The communication plan should be clear and the channel for communication with different agencies should be added to plan.
 - (d) The likely type of oil that could be spilled together with the probable fate of this spilled oil should be identified and should be incorporated into the plan as an annex.
 - (e) More comprehensive environment sensitive map should be prepared and should be incorporated as an annex to the National Oil Spill Contingency plan..
 - (f) Oil spill response strategies can be used in different areas and the limitation of such strategies should be incorporated to the plan.
 - (g) Oil Spill dispersant usage policy and approval method should be defined and should be incorporated to the plan
 - (h) Oil Spill slick movement prediction system should be developed (Oil Spill Trajectory model) and details should be incorporated into the plan.
 - (i) Funding and fund release mechanics and authorities of different officers involved in IMT should be clearly defined.

- (j) Place of refugees in Sri Lankan waters for ships should be identified and should be incorporated into the plan.
- (k) The present plan identified stakeholder agencies and identified their responsibilities. In addition there are other agencies that can provide assistance in the event of oil spill. These agencies responsibilities should be incorporated into the Plan. e.g immigration and customs.

7. Regional plan amendment requirements.

- (1) The regional plan should follow the format of the National Contingency plan.
- (2) The regional plan annexes should follow a common format methodology. E.g. The POLIREF.
- (3) The regional plan database should be incorporated into the SACEP website and should be frequently updated by each national authority.
- (4) Regional Drills and Training programs should be conducted annually to share relevant knowledge among officers and strengthen the cooperation and team building among them.

Annexes

Agenda of the meeting

Agenda for the First national preparatory meeting on enhancing regional cooperation Mechanism on marine Pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP Region

First preparatory meeting of Sri Lanka

Day one – 16th December 2014

9.00am	Registration of participants
9.15 am	Welcome addressed by Chairman of MEPA
9.25 am	Objective of the meeting and anticipated out come By GM MEPA
9.40 am	Regional project and expected outcome- DG, SACEP
10.00 am	Role of International consultant – International Consultant
10.20 am	Role of national consultant and way forward- National Consultant
10.40	End of first session Refreshment
11.00	SACEP project overview – International Consultant
11.35 am	Review of the Action plan adopted by first meeting on national authorities- International Consultant
12.10	SACEP project objectives- International Consultant
12.30	Lunch
1.30-2-30	Overview of national Contingency plan- National Consultant
2.30	Areas need to improves- national Consultant

3.15	Regional Contingency plan-International Consultant
4.00	Contingency planning- International Consultant
5.15	End of the day

Day 2 – 17th December 2014

9.00am	Outcome of the day one- National Consultant
9.15 am	Technical development in HNS spill response- International Consultant
10.00 am	Regulatory development in the field of HNS- International Consultant
10.45 am	Tea Break
11.00 am	Areas need to be developed regional and national plans- National consultant
1130 am	National and regional plan integration -Group discussion
12.30 am	Lunch
1.30 pm	Group work
2.15pm	Development of action plan with time table to improvement
3.15	Tea
3.30	Finalise action plan
4.00pm	Regional exercise- requirement and capacity building requirement
5.00	Vote of thanks
5.15 pm	End of the workshop

**Project on Enhancing Regional Cooperation Mechanisms on Marine Pollution Preparedness &
Response in the SACEP Region, National Preparatory Meeting of Sri Lanka, 16th -17th December at
Central Bank Training Center at Rajagiriya**

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Inauguration session



Technical Session





Group Discussion



Group Presentations

