

104/DM/SACEP/147/563

Headquarters
Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
KARACHI

The Senior Programme Officer (Regional)
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road, Clombo 5,
SRI LANKA

13 March 2015

MINUTES OF 1ST NATIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING ON ENHANCING REGIONAL
COOPERATION MECHANISM ON MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS

Copy of Minutes of subject meeting is enclosed for further necessary action, please.

Encl: (As stated)


MUHAMMAD TARIQ
Commander Pakistan Navy
Director (Operations)

Report

**1st National Preparatory Meeting
on “Enhancing Regional
Cooperation Mechanisms on
Marine Pollution Preparedness in
the SACEP Region”**

Organized by Pakistan Maritime
Security Agency

(With cooperation and assistance from IMO
and SACEP)

12-13 January 2015

Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi

Pakistan

Prepared by

Muzaffar Mahmood

National Consultant

1st National Preparatory Meeting on “Enhancing Regional Cooperation Mechanisms on Marine Pollution Preparedness in the SACEP Region” 12-13 January 2015, Karachi, Pakistan

Introduction and Background

The First Regional Meeting of the National Authorities Responsible for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, which was held from 26 to 28 February 2014, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, agreed to the conduct first series of national-level preparatory meeting by each country, as proposed by IMO. (Reference Project Document circulated during the Meeting and presented by Mr **Jose Matheickal**, and Mr **George James Franklin**). Accordingly, Director General SACEP, Mr **S M D P Anura Jayatilake**, vide his letter SAS/OPRC/Pakistan/01 dated the 27th October 2014, requested **Rear Admiral Ather Mukhtar** SI(M), Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, (the National Counterpart from Pakistan) to conduct the meeting between December 1-15th and January 1-15th 2015.

Director General Pakistan Maritime Security Agency vide his letter 104/DM/SACEP/571/2255 dated the 23rd December 2014, issued invitation to all national stakeholders for the meeting at Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, Pakistan on 12-13 January 2015 and also requested them to forward names of nominated representatives. Moreover, Mr **Muzaffar Mahmood Captain (Retd) Pakistan Navy** was engaged as National Consultant with effect from 11 December 2014 for a period of 25 days work vide HQ PMSA letter 104/DM/SACEP/546/2202 dated the 10th December 2014. Bio-data/CV of the National Consultant was also forwarded to DG SACEP for record by PMSA vide their letter 104/DM/SACEP/577/2262 dated 23 December 2014.

Foreign Delegates and Participants

Moreover, Mr **George James Franklin**, International Project Consultant from IMO and Mr **Pulakesh Mondal**, Senior Programme Officer (Regional) from SACEP also attended the meeting. List of other participants is also attached.

Proceedings of the Meeting

The proceedings commenced with the opening remarks of the Chair and Host of the Meeting, Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, and the National Counterpart of Pakistan. DG PMSA in his opening remarks gave a brief background of the meeting and the actions taken by Pakistan with regard to oil spill contingencies. The Government of Pakistan has promulgated 'National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan' (**NMDCP**) in 2007 and PMSA regularly conducts series of oil spill response exercises by the names of '**BARRACUDA**' and '**SEA HORSE**' with the coordination of all national stakeholders. He praised the efforts of SACEP with help of IMO and NORAD for their initiative and also acting as a bridge between the regional countries to enhance cooperation to deal with challenge in the region. He also expressed his Government's support for the project.

After introduction by the participants, the SACEP representative provided the context of the Meeting through an overview of the region's risk profile with respect to pollution by oil and hazardous & noxious substance (HNS); the historical background to the regional Memorandum of Understanding and the draft Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia and their current status. He stated that the goal is never to have an oil spill. He cited the example of oil spill in the Sundarbans area of Bangladesh with regard to the requirement of regional cooperation for effective response. The purpose of this Meeting is to take steps so as to harmonize the national plans with the draft Regional Plan. He informed that Sri Lanka has signed the MoU and India will do so in three weeks time.

Thereafter, the International Consultant from IMO, made presentations on 'SACEP Project Update' and 'Review of the Action Items' from the SACEP first meeting held in Colombo, 26-28 February 2014. He gave the background, objective (both short term and long term), purpose and scope of the SACEP Project. Then he went on to present the review of the action items as agreed in the Colombo Meeting.

After the tea break, the National Consultant presented an overview of Pakistan's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The Government of Pakistan has promulgated "National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan (NMDCP) in year 2007. The Plan provides for a coordinated mechanism to deal with marine disasters and caters for Pollution from oil, chemicals and hazardous/noxious substances, Search & Rescue, and Salvage. The Plan is regularly practiced for its effectiveness.

Same day, after the lunch break, the International Consultant gave an overview of the SACEP Regional Plan. He highlighted the basic principles for formulation of a contingency plan like management structure, risk assessment, sensitivity mapping, identification of personnel and equipment, training, flexibilities required in the plan, the exercises to verify the plan and competency of the employed personnel. He also highlighted the typical pitfalls in preparation, maintenance and execution of plan. It is recommended that a good plan should not be more than 25 to 30 pages document. It must include command, planning operations, logistics, financial/legal and public relations issues.

He went on to describe 'ARPEL' as an example of a good plan, which covers all important contents in just 14 pages and everything else is added as appendices to the main body of the document. In the Regional Plan the most important section is regarding 'Administration, Logistics and Funding'. There is a requirement to fill in the data in the annexure and interagency agreements revisited (for issues like immigration, customs visa etc for the personnel and equipment arriving from other countries). It was also pointed out that without signing the Fund Convention, claims for compensation may not be processed by the effected country. Thus there is the necessity to sign the Fund Convention. Under Strategy Development, issues regarding

monitoring/evaluation, containment/recovery, pros and cons of using dispersants, shore-line recovery, in-situ burning should be well deliberated. In order to minimize the damage, 'Net Environmental Benefit Analysis' will have to be undertaken, for which sensitivity mapping is required.

On day-2, after recapitulating the 'Outcome of Day-1' by the National Consultant, a comprehensive presentation on the 'Technical and Regulatory Developments in HNS' was made by the International Consultant, for the information of the participants

List of Discussion/Key Themes

During the presentations and discussions following points emerged:

1. There were gaps identified with regard to the awareness about the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, amongst the participants.
2. A fresh risk assessment of oil spill needs to be carried out, since with the passage of time after promulgation of the Plan in 2007, many developments have taken place.
3. The mapping of the sensitivity of the environment to accidental oil pollution is an essential step in preparing the plan and maps will assist the responders during an incident. Therefore, sensitivity mapping be undertaken.
4. National legislation with regard to liability and compensation needs to be further deliberated.
5. There is a dire need of capacity building both in terms of men and material, for all the stakeholders.
6. The Plan has been approved at the highest political level; however, requirement of interagency agreements needs to be revisited.
7. The Plan caters for pollution from oil spills. Details for chemical pollution are required to be added.
8. The NMDCP is more biased towards being a management document. It should be made more proactive and response plan.

Group Discussions

Later in the day, a detailed discussion was held on how to improve the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan as well as Regional Plan and their harmonization and updating. For in-depth deliberations, the participants were divided into four groups. The groups discussed the issue amongst themselves, and later, the group leaders presented their recommendations.

At the end, the International Consultant briefed the participants about the next phase of project and details about the planned regional exercise.

Action Items/Recommendations

The meeting agreed following actions to achieve the aim, objective and purpose of the Project and consequently enhancing the regional cooperation mechanisms on marine pollution and preparedness response:

- Pakistan to revise the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan in light of the discussions held. It should also include measures with regard to chemical pollution/spill and should follow the agreed laid down format.
- The format of national plans of the all the regional countries as well as the Regional Plan should be on the same format and fully synchronized.
- Undertake discussions by relevant stakeholders for taking steps to sign/join the Fund Convention. Requirement of domestic legislation should also be considered.
- Before promulgation of the revised plan, issue of interagency agreements, especially with regard to visa/immigration/customs needs to be further deliberated.
- Requirement of trans-boundary spill/pollution cooperation mechanism for neighboring countries outside SACEP/SAS region needs to be studied by Pakistan.

- Fresh risk assessment and sensitivity mapping be undertaken along with analysis for realistic mobilization, as a crucial tool to assist responders during an incident.
- Requirement of IMO level 1, 2 and 3 training for Oil Spill (through ITCP) be studied and availed for relevant personnel.
- Regional Plan should be revisited in light of the discussion held at the respective National Preparatory Meetings with consensus.
- Chemical Spill should also be made part of Regional Plan.
- Regional exercises and further discussion shall be held to evolve better cooperative mechanism.

At the end, while closing the meeting, the Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Rear Admiral Ather Mukhtar, SI(M), stated that awareness is the core around which remedy of any problem is developed. Therefore, the most important thing is realization about the existence and seriousness of threat of oil or chemical spills in the South Asian Seas Region. This meeting has greatly helped in creating the awareness of the problem as well as about the efforts initiated by SACEP with the cooperation and support of IMO and NORAD. He thanked all the participants for their contribution, especially Mr George James Franklin (International Consultant from IMO), Mr Pulakesh Mondal Senior Programme Officer (Regional), Mr Muzaffar Mahmood (National Consultant) and staff at the Headquarters of PMSA for the successful conduct of the meeting.

The activity was widely covered by national media, both paper and electronic, and received adequate publicity. DG PMSA and International Consultant also replied to the questions raised by the media personnel covering the event. DG PMSA also awarded certificates to the participants.

The meeting, in addition to the regularly conducted exercises, again brought together the relevant stakeholders, created awareness of the latest developments taking place and efforts of the SACEP/IMO/NORAD. Pakistan authorities are better geared to meet the challenge and requirements. Therefore, the meeting remained highly successful in achieving its aims, objectives and purpose.



ATHER MUKHTAR SI(M)

Rear Admiral

National Counterpart SACEP Pakistan