



United States Coast Guard

INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



International Maritime Organization *e-newsletter*

Covering issues under consideration at the International Maritime Organization of interest to the United States

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From the Director's Desk

Happy New Year and welcome to 2016! With every new year, comes new activities at the IMO. This e-Newsletter serves as a summary that highlights the good work occurring there.

Every two years, the IMO holds an Assembly session to address the most significant issues facing IMO governance. In November 2015, the U.S. delegation attending the 29th session of Assembly was led by the Commandant, Admiral Zukunft, and included Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, Assistant Commandant for Prevention. During Assembly, Admiral Zukunft had the opportunity to recognize the out-going Secretary General of the IMO, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, for his 26+ year career. Admiral Zukunft also had the privilege of recognizing Ms. Turid Stemre from the Norwegian delegation for her significant contribution to the Polar Code and the IGF Code. Ms. Stemre was pleasantly surprised to receive the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service award, the Coast Guard's highest level of public recognition.

It was the first time that Admiral Zukunft, had the opportunity to attend an IMO meeting. He provided remarks during Assembly 29 and emphasized the importance of proper operational risk management regarding shipboard cyber sys-

tems among a variety of other important topics. He also had the opportunity to meet with many IMO executives to further discuss U.S. objectives.

In other news at the IMO, the new IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Ki-tack Lim, officially took office on January 1, 2016. He was confirmed at the last session of Assembly and signed his contract during Council 115 for a four-year term.

I look forward to working with him as we face the on-going challenges of cyber risks, implementation of the Member State Audit Scheme, emissions from ships, the application of Goals Based Standards, addressing increased traffic in polar waters, the introduction of e-Navigation, and safety standards for passenger ships.

I once again thank you for your interest in the IMO e-Newsletter and welcome any comments or suggestions for future editions.

Jeff Lantz
Director of Commercial Regulations
& Standards

114th Council (C 114)

The 114th session of IMO Council met on 29 June-3 July, 2015, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jeff Lantz (USA).

Strategy, Planning, and Reform

The Council requested input on Trends, Developments, and Challenges from its members. This is the first step in the development of a new and improved strategic framework for the IMO. The U.S. was one of twelve member states to provide input for this endeavor. All submissions can be found at :

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/strategy/TDC/Pages/default.aspx>.

Transparency & Accountability

The Council agreed that the roll out of the personal financial disclosure program was an appropriate transparency initiative and that similar programs should be supported. Other such programs, like the intentional

strengthening of the policy for protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperation with duly authorized audits or investigations were agreed upon and were applauded by the U.S.

2016-2017 Budget Considerations

The Council approved the draft Assembly resolution for the “results-based” budget for the next biennium. The budget sustains member state dues at current levels and are in line with the U.S. budget goals.

Report of the Committees

The Council praised the adoption of the IGF Code and Polar Code, and the associated amendments to SOLAS, MARPOL, and STCW. The codes will enter into force on January 1, 2017.

Member State Audit Scheme

In anticipation of the increase in re-

quests for qualified auditors driven by the Mandatory Audit Scheme, the Council encouraged member states to nominate additional auditors. The Council also asked those member states already audited to release the reports and corrective action plans in the spirit of improvement to the implementation of mandatory instruments.

Election of the Secretary General

Mr. Ki-tack Lim from the Republic of Korea, was elected by the Council, effective from January 1, 2016, for a 4-year term. He was scheduled to be confirmed at Assembly 29.

Next Session

C 115 was held on December 2, 2015. A summary of this meeting in on page 6 of this newsletter.

IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

The IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea is international recognition for those who risked their life to perform acts of exceptional bravery during the rescue of persons in distress at sea or to prevent catastrophic pollution into the marine environment.

There were 27 total nominations from 10 member governments and two non-governmental organizations.

Council 114, endorsed the decision from the Panel of Judges to award the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery, to Aviation Survival Technician (AST2) Christopher Leon, crew member of the rescue helicopter CG-6531, Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco. Petty Officer Leon was credited for saving four lives on a submerged ocean-going

row boat, in turbulent weather conditions and sinking in the dark. After rescuing three of the four boaters, AST2 Leon remained with the last survivor for more than two hours, while the aircraft went to refuel. The other crew members of CG-6531, LT Jesse Keyser, LT Scott Black, and Aviation Maintenance Technician Michael Spraggins, each received a Certificate of Commendation (COC) for their role in the rescue.

LT John Hess, LT Matthew Vander-slice, Aviation Maintenance Technician Derrick Suba, and Aviation Survival Technician Evan Staph, crew members of the rescue helicopter CG-6033, Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, each were awarded a COC for rescuing two people from a capsized sailing

vessel in a severe winter storm with hurricane warnings.

The ceremony was held on November 19th, 2015 in London during the Council 28th extraordinary session.

AST2 Leon and three of the four survivors from the rowboat attended the award ceremony. The survivors thanked AST2 Leon, and hoped to repay him by making the most out of their own lives.



AST2 Leon

2nd session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III 2)

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The Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments held its second session from 13 to 17 July 2015 under the chairmanship of Captain D. Hutchinson (Bahamas).

This Sub-Committee assists States in implementing and complying with IMO instruments, port state control (PSC), casualty investigations, flag state surveys, analysis of audit summary reports, and the harmonized system of survey and certification.

Requirements for access to, or electronic versions of, certificates and documents, including record books required to be carried on ships

During this session, the Sub-Committee agreed that electronic certificates viewed on a computer should be considered as meeting the requirements to be "on board," provided that the certificates and the website used to access them conform to the guidelines approved by the IMO. The Sub-Committee had to consider amending FAL.2/Circ.127, MEPC.1/Circ.817, and MSC.1/Circ.1462 on the "list of certificates and documents required to be carried on board ships" to reflect the requirements of "on board." The Sub-Committee noted that the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) module on Survey and Certification had been further developed to allow the recording of e-certificate-related infor-

mation. It subsequently found that the existing circulars encompass the use of e-certificates in their current form. However, these circulars may need to be revised based on the outcome of MEPC 69 and the use of electronic record books under MARPOL. The Sub-Committee decided to await MEPC 69 decisions on the matter before taking any further action.

Guidelines for port state control officers on the ISM Code

The draft MSC-MEPC.4 circular on *Guidelines for PSC Officers on the ISM Code* was reviewed. The Sub-Committee noted that the changes proposed by the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 2) provided a more detailed description of "serious failures." The description-referenced criteria used for substandard ships as guidance to PSCOs during deficiency check sparked spirited discussions in plenary. There was a need to clarify the meaning of "serious failure" by HTW 2. Many voiced concerns that the term "serious failure" is recognized as a major threshold for detaining a ship and also references factors that pose a serious threat to ship and personnel safety. Despite opposition from many delegations, including the U.S., the Sub-Committee instructed the PSC working group to remove the changes made by HTW 2 and finalize the draft guidelines using the original version as set out in the draft MSC-MEPC.4 circular.

Marine Casualty Analysis

The Sub-Committee established a Working Group on Casualty Analysis.

The Group deliberated on several important topics during the meeting. The Group's work resulted in the approval and authorization to release the investigative reports to the public on GISIS. The Group also considered which reports may be of interest to other IMO bodies, and possible ways to assist and disseminate casualty lessons learned to seafarers. Finally with the Sub-Committee's approval, the Group provided feedback to Administrations concerning 25 investigation reports in efforts to improve future report submissions.

The Sub-Committee also approved the draft "Lessons Learned from Marine Casualties" document for release on the IMO's website and an "in-the-field job aid" for investigators, made available through the GISIS MCI module.

Additionally, a Correspondence Group on Casualty Analysis was established to continue reviewing casualty reports and draft additional lessons learned for distribution. This Group will also review established casualty review processes of FSI 17/WP.1 and make recommendations for consideration in time for III 3.

Next Session

The Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet from 18 – 22 July, 2016.

2nd session of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 2)

The Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, held its second session from 14-18 September, 2015, under the chairmanship of Mr. Xie Hui (China).

IGF Code

The Sub-Committee began work on amendments to the IGF Code. Specifically, the group considered the development of technical provisions for the safety of ships using methyl/ethyl alcohol as fuel, development of requirements for fuel cells using natural gas as fuel, and the use of low-flashpoint oil fuels. A Correspondence Group was established to progress the work on amendments to the IGF Code, focusing on further development of technical provisions for the use of methyl/ethyl alcohol as fuel and finalizing the draft amend-

ments related to fuel cells.

Two Work Outputs Complete

Amendments to CSC 1972 and Related Circulars as well as the Revised *Guidelines for packing of Cargo Transport Units* were completed during this session of CCC. Several circulars were drafted related to the interpretation and implementation of CSC 1972: development of, and publicly available information on, approved continuous examination programmes (ACEP); and a “due diligence” checklist, were provided to identify providers of CTU-related services. All circulars were forwarded to MSC 96 for approval.

IMDG Code

The Sub-Committee and the 24th

Editorial and Technical Group (E&T 24) finalized the draft Amendment 38-16 to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code. In particular, the groups drafted amendments harmonizing the Code with the 19th Revised Edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNTDG). The amendments align with the U.S. objectives in this pursuit. Significant amendments include new entries for engines and the modification of associated Special Provisions.

Next session

CCC 3 is scheduled to meet from 5-9 September, 2016.

28th Extraordinary Session of the Council (CES 28)

The 28th extraordinary session of IMO Council met on 18-20 November, 2015, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jeff Lantz, (USA) just before the 29th session of the Assembly. The purpose of the meeting is to address any developments that occur between the last session of Council and the next session of Assembly.

Strategy, Planning, and Reform

The Council approved the updated High Level Action Plan of the Organization and its priorities for the 2016-2017 biennium. The Council requested MSC 96 clarify two of the planned outputs regarding the amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code and supplements, and the

amendments to the IMDG Code and the supplements.

Resource Management

The Council approved the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly decisions regarding the base salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories, with the exception of the mandatory age of separation requirement.

The Council deliberated on requests for a waiver to meet the deadline for member dues. The waiver is important because it allows those waived members to vote in the Council member elections for the next biennium. The Council recommended to Assembly 29 that a waiver be granted

to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council recommendation was based on evidence that Iran's dues were available to the IMO, however, the local bank would not accept their currency. The Council did not grant waivers for two other member states who had not paid their dues to the IMO. The Council forwarded Somalia's request for a 20-year pardon of dues to Assembly 29, since there was no precedence set for this type of request. Somalia believes that a history of an unstable government justifies a pardon.

Next Session

The next extraordinary session of Council is scheduled for November 2017.

29th IMO Assembly (A 29)

The IMO Assembly held its 29th session on November 23-December 2, 2015, under the presidency of Mr. Federico Trillo-Figueroa Martinez-Conde of Spain.

Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, led the U.S. delegation. In his general remarks to the Assembly, he applauded the IMO for its continued efforts to enhance the security, efficiency, and resiliency of the marine transportation system. He emphasized the need to include cyber risk in operational risk management in order to prevent any disruption to safe international shipping. Admiral Zukunft also highlighted the mandatory audit scheme significance and touched upon its importance to effective implementation of the international requirements. Admiral Zukunft congratulated international maritime shipping as it is the first transportation sector to adopt mandatory standards that reduce CO₂ emissions on new ships. His remarks were well-received by the international community.

By the end of the Assembly, its membership produced many significant outcomes that will affect the immedi-

ate future of the IMO. The highlights of the Assembly's work includes the approval of 17 resolutions, the budget and the High Level Action Plan. In addition, the Assembly noted numerous amendments to mandatory instruments approved by the Committees, on a variety of issues, including the automatic identification system, the 2012 Cape Town Agreement, and recommendations on pilot transfer arrangements. Finally, the Assembly held another successful Council election program for the next biennium.

Resource Management

The Assembly considered the request from Somalia to pardon 20-years of member dues owed due to their government instability. After much deliberation, the Assembly concluded that Somalia would retain its privilege to vote in the Council election in the short term. In the long-term, the Assembly asked the Council to consider the matter and report the outcome at the next session of Assembly.

Council Election

The biennial IMO Council elections were held during Assembly. Of the 171 Member States, 40 Members are

elected by the entire membership to represent the three categories of Council members. There are 10 memberships in Category A that are categorized as members with interest in international shipping. There are 10 memberships in Category B that are categorized as being interested in international seaborne trade. The U.S. is in Category A. Both Category A and B incumbents retained their positions on the Council and were voted in by acclamation.

Category C has 20 positions on the Council and is categorized as having special interests in maritime transport or navigation, and whose election to Council will ensure representation of all major geographic areas of the world. There were 23 candidates for Category C and 19 incumbents retained their position. Egypt succeeded in gaining a Council membership position, replacing Jamaica.

Next session

Assembly 30 is scheduled to meet in November 2017.

CG Commandant Recognizes Secretary General Sekimizu & Ms. Turid Stemre of Norway

While at IMO Assembly 29, Admiral Zukunft presented Mr. Koji Sekimizu and Ms. Turid Stemre of Norway with the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Sekimizu was the IMO Secretary General from 2011-2015 and worked on the IMO Secretariat for more than 26 years. Ms. Turid Stemre was recognized for her significant work and subsequent

adoption of the Polar Code and the IGF Code. Her contribution is of great historic significance as these Codes will improve safety and environmental protection standards. Mr. Sekimizu and Ms. Stemre were recognized in front of many top executives from member governments and the industry during a formal ceremony onboard the HQS Wellington.



From Left to Right: Mr. Sekimizu, Ms. Stemre & Rear Admiral Thomas listen to Admiral Zukunft's remarks

115th Council (C 115)

On December 2, 2015, immediately following the 29th session of Assembly, the 115th session of the Council met. Mr. Jeff Lantz (USA) was re-elected by acclamation as the IMO Council Chairman. Mr. Dumisani Ntuli (South Africa) stepped down as the Council Vice-Chairman for the 2016-2017 biennium. The Council will decide on a new vice-chairman at an election during its 116th session.

Resource Management

The Council further considered the

request from Somalia to forgive 20-years of dues owed to the IMO, given their history with an unstable government. After much discussion, the Council decided to consider the matter further at its next session, pending receipt of a discussion paper prepared by the IMO Secretariat.

Contract of the Secretary General

The new Secretary General, Mr. Ki-

tack Lim, signed his contract before the members of the Council. Secretary General Lim was elected at the 114th session of Council. He will serve an initial 4-year term.

Next Session

Council 116 will meet from July 4-8, 2016.

IMO Ambassador Scheme

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Cari Thomas and Ms. Carleen Lyden Kluss, co-founder and executive director of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), were recently appointed to be IMO Ambassadors for the U.S.

They were nominated by the United States Coast Guard because of their extensive careers in different maritime activities as well as their unique interest in maritime education and training opportunities for students.

The IMO Ambassador Scheme was launched in February 2015 as an initiative to emphasize the importance of the maritime industry. The program depends on the experiences of people in maritime careers to promote it. An IMO Ambassador is an advocate for maritime and seafaring professions and actively conducts community outreach

activities which encourage young people to consider careers at sea or in the maritime industry. RADM Thomas and Ms. Lyden-Kluss are two of the first IMO Ambassadors from the United States and are congratulated on their appointments.



Ms. Carleen Lyden Kluss



Rear Admiral Cari Thomas

IMO Special Recognition For Merchant Vessels Involved in the Rescue of Migrants at Sea

U.S. Coast Guard seeks information on all U.S. merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescued of mixed migrants at sea. The IMO will recognize

merchant vessels and their crew for performing such rescues beginning January 1, 2014. Nominations must be endorsed and submitted by the Coast

Guard. Industry representatives are asked to complete Annex 2 of the IMO Circular Letter No.3619, which is found [here](#), and submit to imo@uscg.mil.