



Asian Shipowners Forum

Safe Navigation & Environment Committee (SNEC)

c/o Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA)
59 Tras Street, Singapore 078998
Tel: (65) 62225238 Fax: (65) 622225527
email: fasa@pacific.net.sg

PRESS RELEASE

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1. The 19th Interim Meeting of the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF) Safe Navigation & Environment Committee (SNEC) was held in Singapore on 17 September 2010. It was hosted by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA).
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of shipowners' associations from Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA) as represented by the shipowners' associations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore.
3. Mr. S.S. Teo, President of SSA chaired the SNEC meeting on behalf of FASA.
4. During the meeting, the Committee considered and discussed current issues of concern relating to the safe navigation of ships and the protection of the marine environment.
5. The Committee continued to express grave concern at the threat posed by **Piracy and Armed Robbery** worldwide. In particular, the Committee noted that, from January to June 2010, Somali pirates had attacked 100 vessels, hijacked 27 ships and kidnapped 544 seafarers.

The Committee also expressed concern at the increasing number of attacks in the South China Sea, with eighteen incidents of piracy and armed robbery reported in waters off the Anambas and Mangkai islands to date. The Committee urged all States to cooperate and to take stronger, pro-active action, both on-shore and at sea, to prevent such crimes from taking place.

The Committee noted that the Secretary Generals of the International Maritime Organisation and the United Nations have both responded to a letter from the ASF expressing the ASF's concerns about pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin and the Indian Ocean.

The Committee welcomed the appointment of Mr. Jack Lang as the UN Special Advisor on piracy – it is to be hoped that he will facilitate the development of an effective mechanism for prosecuting captured pirates.

6. The Committee urged all ASF Members to sign the global e-petition by World Maritime Day on 23 September 2010. The e-petition demands concrete action to end the piracy that is putting lives at risk and threatening world trade
7. Considering the outcome of the 56th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on **Safety of Navigation** (NAV 56), the Committee was pleased to note that NAV 56 had provisionally adopted a proposal by the littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore that all applicable vessels display night signals consisting of three all-round green lights in a vertical line when crossing the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait, to be included as a recommendatory interim measure.
8. On **Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships**, the Committee agreed to support a proposal by the international associations, namely the International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO, OCIMF and Intercargo calling for the formation of a Correspondence Group to investigate mechanisms by which an assessment of future fuel availability could be conducted.
9. The Committee also welcomed the completion of a draft regulatory text detailing requirements of the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new vessels and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships in operation to be approved at the forthcoming 61st Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee¹.

The Committee agreed that efforts to regulate and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from international shipping should focus on such technical and operational measures as the EEDI and SEEMP.

10. With regard to an ongoing review of MARPOL Annex V, the Committee agreed in principle to the amendments proposed by the Correspondence Group, subject to the provision of adequate reception facilities at the port of call.
11. The Committee was also pleased to host an informal meeting with the Association of Asian Classification Societies (ACS).
12. In closing, the members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to the SSA for hosting the 19th Interim Meeting of the SNEC in Singapore.

For any further questions, please contact:

Mr. Daniel Tan,
Secretary
ASF Safe Navigation & Environment Committee

Tel: (65) 62225238
Email: fasa@pacific.net.sg

¹ 61st MEPC meeting will be held on 27 September - 1 October 2010

Editor's note:

The Asian Shipowners' Forum is a voluntary organization of the shipowner associations of Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations comprising shipping associations of ASEAN countries. The aims of the ASF are to promote the interests of the Asian shipowning industries. Between annual ASF meetings, the ongoing work is carried out by the five Standing Committees; the Shipping Economics Review Committee, the Seafarers Committee, the Ship Recycling Committee, the Safe Navigation and Environment Committee, and the Ship Insurance and Liability Committee. It has been estimated that ASF owners and managers control and operate nearly 50% of the world's cargo carrying fleet.