



Report of the 1st Meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum

5th and 6th June 2017

Venue Lloyd's Register's Office, London.

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



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Summary

The inaugural meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum was an important milestone in identifying and gathering information to support safe and environmentally responsible Arctic shipping.

The Forum is a demonstration of what can be achieved when industry, Governments, International Regulators, the Research Community, the indigenous community, and international organizations work together (encouraging public –private partnership).

When Director Mahapatra of the IMO kindly addressed the Forum he indicated that the Forum is a template to be used elsewhere in the world.

Overall the inaugural meeting of the Forum was a Positive meeting and everyone left with a great sense of purpose.

The next meeting is likely to take place in 2018, back to back with an IMO MEPC72 in April or MSC99 in May in London, the date to be fixed in the future.

Opening and Introduction

The Chair, Dr. Anita Mäkinen of Finland opened the Forum, thanking everyone for their presence, and those who could not be there, for their interest, and everyone who had submitted position papers to assist the Forum. She also expressed, on behalf of the Forum, her gratitude and appreciation to Lloyd's Register in conjunction with Lloyd's of London for hosting the Forum.

The Arctic Council PAME WG established the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum to support and promote effective implementation of the IMO Polar Code. The establishment of the Forum is noted with appreciation in the Fairbanks Arctic Council Ministerial Declaration (2017).

The Arctic Council Fairbanks Ministerial Declaration welcomes the entry into force of the Polar Code to ensure safe and environmentally sound shipping in the harsh Arctic marine environment, and encourages continued engagement by Arctic States, including at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to facilitate harmonized implementation and enforcement of the Polar Code.

The Ministerial Declaration also notes the discussions within the International Maritime Organization on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil by ships in Arctic waters and the assessment of associated risks, and decide to provide expertise and information developed through the ongoing work of the Arctic Council for consideration by those involved in Arctic shipping matters, including at the International Maritime Organization.

Dr. Mäkinen, the Chair, reminded that Mr. Kitack Lim, the Secretary General of IMO joined the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officers meeting this spring in USA and expressed his wish to enhance the collaboration between IMO and the Arctic Council, especially in the implementation of the Polar Code. And that Mr Lim's wish was taken seriously and is now reflected in the Fairbanks Ministerial Declaration.

Finland is chairing the Arctic Council from 2017-2019 and accordingly the Chair shared the video clip on the Finland's Arctic Council Chairmanship and its program. Finland has chosen two broad frameworks that should be taken into account in all activities: climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals or Agenda 2030 that the United Nations adopted in 2015. On climate change,

the Paris agreement from 2015 defines the present level of ambition. On the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community has established consensus, and commitments are being worked out, e.g. in the UN's Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017.

Finland has also identified four priority areas. They are environmental protection, connectivity, meteorological cooperation and education. Additionally, enhancement of maritime safety to protect the marine environment in Arctic waters is one of the Finland's priorities in the shipping sector during its Arctic Council Chairmanship.

After the Chair's opening address, Ms. Anne Berner, Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland, and Ms. Monica Maeland, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, addressed the Forum by video message underlining the importance of the Forum for the implementation of the Polar Code.

Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), gave an address emphasizing the importance of compiling information to assist in effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code. He indicated that the Forum is a template to be used elsewhere in the world and was pleased that the Arctic Council States under the leadership of Finland would present the concept to IMO Maritime Safety Committee in its 98 Session (MSC98) on the 15th June 2017.

The Forum was attended by Arctic Council members, including Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers, and also by a wide spectrum of stakeholders with an interest in Arctic shipping. Altogether over 50 participants were in attendance. Mr. Brad Groves of Australia, Chair of the IMO MSC-committee also attended.

Industry has played a key role in shaping the Forum, with significant input from maritime organizations and insurers, including Lloyd's of London, and Lloyd's Register. Many other significant industry representative bodies were present including e.g. ICS, and national Shipowners' Associations, and other representative bodies such as IALA, the Nautical Institute and OCIMF.

Furthermore, the Forum is collaborating with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Presentations and Discussions

The Arctic Council PAME WG has established the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum to support effective implementation of the Polar Code by making publicly available at a web portal hyperlinks to information relevant to all those involved in safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping, including vessels owners/operators, regulators, classification societies, marine insurers, and indigenous and local communities.

In addition to Position Papers submitted, presentations were made by the following:

1. Focus: Arctic States: [Kingdom of Denmark - Ms. Pernille Palmelund Sorensen Head of Section Maritime Regulation and Legal Affairs, Danish Maritime Authority;](#)
2. Focus: Permanent Participants / Indigenous Peoples: [Ms. Nicole Kanayurak, \(ICC Representative to PAME\);](#)
3. Focus: Arctic Council Observers: [Korea - Ms. Soojin Hwang, senior researcher KMI. SMART Navigation;](#) and

4. Focus: Industry: [Association of Arctic Cruise Expedition Operators - Mr Ilja Leo Lang, Office Manager Denmark.](#)

These presentations can also be downloaded from the PAME website at: [1st meeting of the Forum.](#)

All the speakers welcomed the development of the Forum to help them to achieve their objectives.

Ms. Pernille Palmelund Sorensen of Denmark informed that gaps in the application of the Polar Code are recognized in Denmark and there are concerns that some vessels may not be surveyed until 2020. In Denmark new pilotage and navigation rules and training have been introduced that go beyond the Polar Code in an attempt to preserve developed experience and knowledge amongst crew and navigators.

Representative of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Ms. Nicole Kanayurak emphasized the need that the projects are built with a bottom up approach, in line with the Forum's ethos, from local to national and ultimately at the international level. According to Ms. Kanayurak, ICC will engage in whatever way it can to contribute appropriate information. Infrastructure development is important to ensure food security in the region, and communications in the form of broadband access in the next step in that development.

Ms. Soojin Hwang, on behalf of the observer state South Korea, highlighted the development of the advanced eNav classification system, amalgamating ECDIS and ENL systems, which provides a framework to collect and display hazard information that could be incorporated for Polar use.

Mr. Ilja Leo Lang as an industry representative of AECO informed that they have organized joint Public/Private & Industry SAR training exercises producing valuable knowledge sharing opportunities. AECO will contribute all pertinent information to assist the Forum website.

General discussion

The Forum discussed its aims to create and sustain a culture in which Best Practice is welcomed and encouraged as a fundamental goal by providing information on a web portal, hosted by the PAME Secretariat, that will assist in that process for the effective implementation of the Polar Code.

The Forum discussed the Forum's Terms of Reference at length, especially on what the Forum should focus on. The Forum concluded that best approach was to align the information required with the Polar Code requirements.

The Polar Code focuses/requires inputs of information depending on what operation is taking place, and the Forum seeks to assist in identifying recognized sources of information. These requirements are set out in the Terms of Reference of the Forum.

The conclusion was that the Forum does not provide regulatory information nor does it seek to develop or initiate Best Practice Procedures from within. The Forum is a body to collect and disseminate information that has proven pertinent to or accepted by the Forum as best practice is made available for users to apply at their own discretion.

It was agreed that it is up to each operator and the various decision makers in the process (Operators, Flag States, Insurers, Financial Institutions, and Port State Control) to determine whether the operation complies with the Polar Code. It is not the Forum's remit to determine what Best Practice is in operations, but it is the Forum's aim to help identify correct information that can be relied upon in that process to assist stakeholders.

The basic layout of the web portal will feature distinct sections. The precise layout is to be finalised with feedback from Forum's stakeholders/participants, which were encouraged to work with their respective networks to submit relevant information for posting on the Forum's web portal.

It was suggested that the web portal layout follows the components as identified in the IMO Guidelines for Voyage planning (Resolution A.893 (21) adopted on 25 November 1999) and as identified in Paragraph 14 of the Forum's Terms of Reference. Information to be made available on the web portal will thus include, but is not limited to:

- Hydrography
- Meteorology
- Ice Data
- Crew Training
- Search & Rescue
- Communication Requirements
- Industry Guidelines
- Traditional & Local Knowledge
- Ecological Knowledge
- Operational Understanding
- Ship Equipment, Systems & Structure
- Waste Management

The information provided on the web portal is provided as a guidance i.e. as examples of the best information that the Forum's stakeholders have successfully applied / suggested in Arctic/ Polar operations. The Forum does not recommend any individual item of information or procedure that may be used.

Additionally to the Terms of Reference, also the Draft Methods of Operation for Forum's Stakeholders, Eligibility Criteria (for information to be posted), Communication and Outreach Strategy were discussed in detail.

After long and constructive discussions, consensus reached by the Forum on the following issues

A. APPROACH OF IDENTIFYING AND COLLECTING INFORMATION

Sources of data and methods of application are fundamental to safe and sustainable maritime operations. It must be from a recognized source and the Forum is developing guidelines for verifying the information. It is the responsibility of Members of the Forum to identify relevant information.

B. TYPES OF INFORMATION

The Forum aims to point out sources of pertinent information that could potentially be used to improve ships performance in Arctic waters.

The consensus on the types of information required is that there is a direct link to the Polar Code requirements i.e. the Forum aims to collect authoritative information that is strictly relevant in the implementation of and non-compliance with the Polar Code.

The meeting participants agreed that the Terms of Reference, Draft Rules of Procedure, and Eligibility Criteria would be revised based on the discussions and circulated to stakeholders/participants for comments.

Closing of the Forum and the next meeting

The Forum agreed that the next meeting is likely to take place in 2018, back to back with an IMO meeting either MEPC72 (9-13 April 2018) or MSC99 (16 -25 May 2018) in London, the date to be fixed in the future.

The meeting's Chair, Dr. Mäkinen of Finland closed the Forum by reminding about the momentum for the Forum, good attention the Forum has received, new partnerships developed already now and great website under development. Finally she thanked everyone for their great enthusiasm, and encouraged all members to work hard to submit information to populate the web portal.

ANNEX I: Meeting Agenda



Event: 1st Meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum
Date: 5-6 June 2017
Location: Lloyd's Register Office, [71 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS](#)

Meeting Rapporteur: Christopher Ryan

Coffee breaks: 10:30-10:45 (Tuesday: 10:45-11:15) and 15:30-15:45

Lunch breaks: 12:45-14:00

MONDAY, June 5

<i>Time</i>	<i>OBJECTIVES & FOCUS</i>
08:15-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Opening Remarks (<i>Dr. Anita Makinen, Forum Chair</i>) Welcome by the Venue Host (<i>Mr Tom Boardley, Vice President and Global Head of Corporate and External Affairs, Lloyd's Register</i>) Remarks by IMO (<i>Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director, Maritime Safety Division</i>)
09:30-09:45	Introductions (Tour de Table)
09:45-10:30	Forum Terms of Reference, Objectives and Draft Rules of Procedure: Overview, Discussion, and Q&A <i>(Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser, PAME Shipping Expert Group (SEG) Co-Chairs)</i>
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45-11:15	Initial Discussion – Web Portal Structure and Format (<i>Mr. Hjalti Hreinsson, PAME Secretariat, and Mr. Michael Kingston, London Insurance Market Joint Hull Committee Legal Advisor</i>)

11:15-11:45	<p>Information Paper Presentation #1 (<i>Focus: Arctic States</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom of Denmark (<i>Ms. Pernille Palmelund Sørensen, Head of Section, Maritime Regulation and Legal Affairs, Danish Maritime Authority</i>) • Discussion and Q&A
11:45-12:15	<p>Information Paper Presentation #2 (<i>Focus: Permanent Participants/Indigenous Peoples</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) (<i>Nicole Kanayurak, ICC Representative to PAME</i>) • Discussion and Q&A
12:15-12:45	<p>Information Paper Presentations #3 (<i>Focus: Arctic Council Observers</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korea Maritime Institute (<i>SooJin Hwang, Senior Researcher</i>) • Discussion and Q&A
12:45-14:00	<i>Sandwich lunch provided by Lloyd's Register</i>
14:00-14:30	<p>Information Paper Presentations #4 (<i>Focus: Industry</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (<i>Mr. Ilja Leo Lang, Office Manager Denmark</i>) • Discussions and Q&A
14:30-15:30	Plenary Discussion
15:30-15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45-16:30	<p>Information Paper Presentations #5 (<i>Focus: Intergovernmental Organizations</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (<i>Mr. Francis Zachariae, Secretary-General</i>) • Discussions and Q&A
16:30-17:15	<u>Discussion</u> – Developing Eligibility Criteria for Information to be Posted to the Web Portal (<i>Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser, PAME Shipping Expert Group (SEG) Co-Chairs</i>)
17:15-17:20	Wrap-Up and Announcements (<i>Dr. Anita Mäkinen, Forum Chair</i>)
18:30	<p><i>Dinner at Trinity House (Lloyd's of London)</i></p> <p><i>Remarks by Mr. David Lawrence, Lloyd's Controller Agencies, Lloyd's of London</i></p>

TUESDAY, June 6

<i>Time</i>	ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH
09:00-09:15	Day 1 Recap/Summary (<i>Dr. Anita Makinen, Forum Chair</i>)
9:15-10:45	<u>Discussion 1</u> : Identification of Relevant/Useful ASBPIF Information; Web portal Content (<i>Group discussion led by Dr. Anita Makinen, Forum Chair, and Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Frasier, PAME SEG Co-Chairs</i>)
10:45-11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15-12:30	<u>Discussion 2</u> : Forum Draft Rules of Procedure (<i>Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser,, PAME SEG Co-Chairs</i>)
12:30-13:45	<i>Sandwich lunch provided by Lloyd's Register</i>
13:45-15:00	<u>Discussion 3</u> : Forum Draft Communication and Outreach Strategy (<i>Mr. Drummond Frasier, PAME SEG Co-Chair, and Soffía Guðmundsdóttir, PAME Secretariat</i>)
15:30-15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00-16:45	<u>Discussion 4</u> : Next Steps, Intercessional Work Items & 2018 Meeting (<i>Dr. Anita Makinen, Forum Chair, and Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Frasier, PAME SEG Co-Chairs</i>)
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks (<i>Dr. Anita Makinen, Forum Chair</i>)
	<i>End of Meeting/Adjourn</i>

ANNEX II: List of Participants

The Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum: Registration (4 June)

Nr.	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Phone (please include the country code)	Email	Affiliation	Head of delegation	Do you plan to submit a paper?
1	Åke	Rohlen	Partner Arctic Marine Solutions			ake.rohlen@arcticmarinesolutions.se	Arctic State	No	No
2	Andrea	Ahlberg	Swedish Transport Agency	International Liaison Officer	+46104953212	andrea.ahlberg@transportstyrelsen.se	Arctic State	Yes	No
3	Andrew	Dumbrille	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Senior Specialist, Sustainable Shipping	+1-613-290-2006	adumbrille@wwfcanada.org	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	Yes
4	Anita	Makinen	Finnish Transport Safety Agency	Chief Advisor to the Director General of Maritime Sector	+35840 162 4592	anita.makinen@trafi.fi	Arctic State	No	No
5	Anna	Bordon	Lloyds	Lloyd's Executive, Innovation Team		Anna.Bordon@lloyds.com			
6	Ashok	Mahapatra	International Maritime Organization	Director, Maritime Safety Division	+442075873212	amahapat@imo.org	Other	Yes	No
7	Benjamin	Hawkins	U.S. Coast Guard, Headquarters	Chief, Design & Engineering Standards	+1 202 906 0528	Benjamin.J.Hawkins@uscg.mil	Arctic State	No	No
8	Brad	Groves	Australia	General Manager Standards	+61 (0)407341438	brad.groves@amsa.gov.au	Other	No	No
9	Bruce	McMichael	Frontier Energy	Editor		editor@frontierenergy.info	Other	No	No
10	Charlotte	Mogensen	OSPAR	Deputy Secretary	+44 20 7430 5200	charlotteb.mogensen@ospa.org	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	No
11	Christine	Kelly	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Arctic and Antarctic Policy Officer		christine.kelly@fco.gov.uk	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	No
12	Christopher	Ryan	Lloyds	Lloyds Market Practitioner	+44-1342-870532	crvan4823@gmail.com	Other	No	No
13	David	Campion	The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF)	Technical Adviser		Davidcampion@itopf.com	Other	Yes	No
14	Dena	Brownlow	USA	Science and Technology Officer	+442078940969	brownlowdd@state.gov		No	No
15	Drummond	Fraser	Transport Canada	Policy Analyst		drummond.fraser@tc.gc.ca	Arctic State	No	No
16	Francis	Zachariae	The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)	Secretary-General	+33 0674106952	francis.zachariae@iala-aism.org	Other	Yes	Yes
17	Helle	Hammer	International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI)	Managing Director of the Nordic Association of Marine Insurers		helle.hammer@cefor.no	Other	Yes	No
18	Henry	Burgess	International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)	Head, NERC Arctic Office, UK	+44 1223 221426	Henry.Burgess@bas.ac.uk	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	No
19	Hjalti	Hreinsson	PAME Secretariat	Project manager	+3546599533	hjalti@pame.is	Other	No	No
20	Ija	Lang	Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)	Office Manager, Denmark	+45 26249592	ija@aeco.no	Permanent Participant	Yes	Yes
21	James	Parsons	Canada	Academi Director	1 709 778 0684	jim.parsons@mi.mun.ca	Arctic State	No	No
22	Jane	Rumble	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Head of Polar Regions Dept.		jane.rumble@fco.gov.uk	Arctic Council Observer	No	No
23	John	Lloyd	The Nautical Institute	Chief Executive Officer	+44 7497 350 198	john.lloyd@nautinst.org	Other	Yes	Yes
24	Jorgen	Høifort	Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology - Expert Team on Sea Ice (JCOMM ETSI)	Head of Ice Service	+49 1736176755	juergen.hoifort@bsh.de	Other	Yes	Yes
25	Kevin	Clarke	Lloyd's	Controller of Agencies	+44 (0) 20 7327 5093	Kevin.Clarke@lloyds.com	Other	No	Yes
26	Kierstin	Del Valle	Cruise Lines International Association	Manager, Maritime Policy		kdelvalle@cruising.org	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	No
27	Kirsi	Ylärinne	ESL Shipping	Operations Manager		kirsi.ylarinne@eslshipping.com	Other	No	No
28	Mariame	Thyring	Danish Meteorological Institute	Director General	+45 2261 7971	mth@DMI.dk	Arctic State	Yes	No
29	Marjo	Mäki-Lepplampi	Finland	Counsellor, Political Affairs, from the Embassy of Finland in London	+44 20 7838 6204	mario.maki-leppilampi@formin.fi	Arctic State	No	No
30	Mark	Hoddinott	International Salvage Union	General Manager	+44 20 7220 6597	isu@marine-salvage.com	Other	Yes	No
31	Marko	Tuominen	Finnish Border Guard / Arctic Coast Guard Forum	Deputy head of division	+358405006728	marko.tuominen@raja.fi	Other	Yes	Yes
32	Michael	Kingston	London Insurance Market Joint Hull Committee Legal Advisor	Lawyer	+44 7814 898225	michaelkingston@michaelkingston.org	Other	No	No
33	Mike	Thompson	Lloyd's Market Association- Navigational Limits	Chairman Nav limits committee		michael.thompson@argo-global.com	Other	No	No
34	Nicole	Kanayurak	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)	Representative	+19072274493	nicole.kanayurak@gmail.com	Permanent Participant	Yes	No
35	Ola	Grabak	European Space Agency	Application Engineer		ola.grabak@esa.int	Other	No	Yes
36	Paul	Fuhs	Marine Exchange AK	Board President	+1907-351-407	paulfuhs@earthlink.net	Other	Yes	Yes
37	Pauline	Marchand	The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF)	Senior Claims Coordinator		Paulinemarchand@itopf.com	Other	No	No
38	Pernille Palmelund	Sørensen	Danish Maritime Authority	Head of Section	+4591376312	pps@dma.dk	Arctic State	Yes	Yes
39	Peter	Oppenheimer	US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	PAME SEG Co-Chair	+1 202-482-0032	peter.oppenheimer@noaa.gov	Arctic State	No	No
40	Peter	Hinchliffe	International Chamber of Shipping	Secretary General	+44 7773 395972	peter.hinchliffe@ics-shipping.org	Other	Yes	No

41	Piotr	Graczyk	Poland	Research Fellow		piotr.graczyk@uit.no	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	No
42	Rob	Hindley	Lloyd's Register	Arctic Lead	+358401260731	rob.hindley@lr.org	Other	No	Yes
43	Robert	Brooks	Economic and Industry Intelligence	Director	613-852-6307	Robert.Brooks@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Arctic State	No	No
44	Ronnie	Allen	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Policy: Ship Structures and Stability	+44 07876 116004	ronald.allen@mca.gov.uk	Other	Yes	No
45	Siv Christin	Gaalas	Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	Specialty Director- international regulation and polar affairs		sca@nfd.dep.no	Arctic State	Yes	No
46	Soffia	Guðmundsdóttir	PAME Secretariat	PAME Executive Secretary	+354 4601355	pame@pame.is	Other	Yes	No
47	Soojin	Hwang	Korea Maritime Institute	Senior Researcher		ardentH@kmi.re.kr	Arctic Council Observer	No	No
48	Søren	Enemark	Danish Shipowners association			se@shipowners.dk		No	No
49	Stuart	Doubleday	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Deputy Head of Polar Regions Dept.		stuart.doubleday@fco.gov.uk	Arctic Council Observer	No	No
50	Timothy	Keane	Fednav Limited	Senior Manager, Arctic Operations	+1 514 927 6652	tkeane@fednav.com	Other	No	No
51	Tom	Boardley	Lloyd's Register	Executive Vice President	+44 0207 423 1485	tom.boardley@lr.org	Other	No	No
52	Tony	Wynne	Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)	Technical Adviser - Nautical	+44 207 654 1242	Tony.Wynne@ocimf.org	Other	Yes	No
53	Turid	Stemre	Norwegian Maritime Authority	Senior Adviser		Turid.Stemre@sjofartsdir.no	Arctic State	No	No
54	Whit	Sheard	Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)	President	+1 (907) 982-7095	whitsheard@gmail.com	Arctic Council Observer	Yes	Yes

ANNEX III: Press release

Inaugural Meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum

Today, 6 June 2017, at Lloyd's Register's Office in London, the inaugural meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum concluded.

The Forum has been established by the eight Arctic States (Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States) to help raise awareness and to promote the effective implementation of the International Maritime Organization's International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), a mandatory international framework that increases the safety of ship operations and mitigate the impact on the people and the vulnerable environment in Polar waters. The Polar Code came into force in January 2017.

The Forum was referenced in the Arctic Council's Ministerial Declaration in Fairbanks, Alaska on 11 May 2017, signed by the foreign ministers of the eight Arctic States.

In the Declaration, the Arctic States welcomed:

“ the entry into force of the Polar Code to ensure safe and environmentally sound shipping in the harsh Arctic marine environment, and encourage continued engagement by Arctic States, including at the International Maritime Organization, to facilitate harmonized implementation and enforcement of the Polar Code, and note with appreciation the establishment of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum to promote the implementation of the Code”

The International code of safety for ships operating in polar waters (Polar Code) covers the full range of design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters relevant to ships operating in the inhospitable waters surrounding the two poles.

Convened under the auspices of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), the Forum aims to make publicly available, at a single web portal, information to support effective implementation of the Polar Code.

In addition to Arctic Council members, including Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers, the Forum was attended by a wide spectrum of stakeholders with an interest in Arctic shipping. In particular, industry has played a key role in shaping the Forum, with significant input from maritime organizations and insurers, including Lloyd's of London, and Lloyd's Register.

Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of the International Maritime Organization, gave an address emphasising the importance of compiling information to assist in effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code.

Finland's Anita Mäkinen, the Forum Chair said:

“The inaugural meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum is an important milestone in identifying and gathering information to support safe and environmentally responsible Arctic shipping.”

She went on to say, “The input of so many stakeholders in the Forum demonstrates the importance of working in a collaborative approach to support the effective implementation of international regulations.”

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



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