



Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States - An SPREP/IMO/ARPEL Workshop

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September, 2023 – Brisbane, AUSTRALIA

Background

The risk of oil spills in South Pacific Area requires a proper level of preparedness and response of the island states in the region, led by governments in collaboration with other stakeholders. SPREP, with funding and technical support from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, the International Maritime Organization, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Maritime New Zealand, and Oil Spill Response Limited are seeking to improve the national preparedness and technical response capability in the Pacific by building capability and resilience of and amongst members of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PacPlan 2019). This is known as the PacPlan Resilience Project 2022-25.

Preparedness evaluation is a key element of this project, through benchmarking and gap analysis, and allows countries to set expectations, plan their investment, and work with others to prepare for regional and international cooperation and collaboration. The ARPEL Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™) has been used by governments and industry in 90+ countries of the five continents and has thus become an internationally accepted standard for undertaking such evaluation. It also sets a useful platform to investigate and explore issues key to preparedness, such as risk assessment, producing a National Contingency Plan (and other levels), decision-support tools like Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA), training and development needs, and exercise planning and execution.

The Australasia, the Pacific and Southeast Asia have not seen much of this process, so well used across much of the northern hemisphere and South America. ARPEL and Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution, Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) have graciously consented to support the workshop, by providing worldclass experts to attend SpillCon23 and work with the PacPlan Resilience Project to offer this three-day workshop. They will be supported by international experts from SPREP, IMO, and industry.

Objectives

This workshop aims to share international experience and up-to-date knowledge on key issues of oil spill preparedness and response. It will also assist in the use of a suite of environmental management and governance tools for governments as well as present the experience gathered in other parts of the world with similar characteristics.

Outcomes

At the workshop, participants will learn about:

1. Applying the ARPEL *Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills* (RETOS™) as a building template and as an evaluation guide of key requirements to be considered within a national contingency plan including the identification of areas for improvement.

2. Applying the principles and concepts of the ARPEL Guideline on *How to Develop a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan*, as well as other regional and international guidance.
3. Knowing the importance and benefits of international agreements and conventions for oil spill response and strategies for their implementation.
4. The experience, importance and means for implementation of regional coordination and cooperation with key stakeholders, especially in remote ocean areas, and small island and developing states.
5. The forthcoming, new *2023 International Guide for the Assessment of Oil Spill Response Planning and Preparedness* as the knowledge base that may assist to integrate the relevant requirements for an effective oil spill response, and
6. The basics on oil spill risk assessment, national planning, SIMA, exercise and training planning, in order to provide context and follow-up.

All in all, it is expected that participating governments and agencies understand the key strategies and policies, as well as governance and management issues required, in order to be prepared for and respond to oil spill incidents through the proper organization of existing national and other resources.

Dynamics of the workshop

The workshop will be delivered by international experts through a combination of presentations and discussions with the participants on the key issues to be addressed for an effective oil spill planning, preparedness and response in the context of the regional and national priorities and status. Participants will have at hand the National Oil Spill Contingency Plans of their countries as well as any related information, regulations, policies or procedures.

Workshop participant number limited to 40, to provide participants with a quality experience, and the opportunity for intensive group and individual learning and activity.

There will be a registration fee payable in advance, of \$300 in total, for the three sessions to cover venue and catering costs.

Workshop experts' team (some to be confirmed)

1. *Marcus Lisboa*, Oil Spill Consultant of ARPEL (Team Leader) – **RETOS, national planning, transboundary movement of equipment and personnel** (Confirmed)
2. *Mathew Martin*, Senior Consultant of RAC/Rempeitc-Caribe – **The experience of implementing regional intergovernmental agreements and cooperation in the Caribbean Region** (Confirmed)
3. *Darren Waterman and/or James Tan Zhi Hao*, OSRL – **Operational and contractual aspects on response equipment and personnel, exercise and training planning, transboundary movement of equipment and personnel** (Confirmation pending)
4. *Nai Ming Lee*, Project Manager for the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia - **GI-SEA National planning challenges, implementing regional cooperation in SEA** (confirmation pending)
5. *Phil Starkin*, AMOSC GM – **Australian regional arrangements** (confirmation pending)
6. *Will Griffiths*, IMO – ex-OSRL and OPRC expert for IMO – **International conventions: ratification and implementation** (confirmed)
7. *Dr Zullah Mohammad*, Pollution Adviser, SPREP, **Details of PACPLAN Project of SPREP** (confirmed)
8. *Paul Irving*, Marine Pollution Project Officer, SPREP, **PACPLAN Resilience Project 2025, Introduction and context** (confirmed),
9. *Others to be confirmed.*

Workshop Prerequisites

- Workshop will be run in English.

- Provide an optional biography (in English) covering nominal, preparedness, and response functions and roles, recent incident response and exercises experience, and recent training and development.
- Bring electronic copy of your Contingency or Response Plan – be familiar with it and your role within it.
- Have read, if possible, the pre-reading material provided with you registration

September 2023 SPREP/IMO/ARPEL Workshop on Developing oil spill preparedness and response planning in Pacific Small Island and Other Developing States

Draft Proposed Programme

Time	Topic	Objectives	Delivery mode
Friday 15 Sept			
1200	Registration, with stand-up lunch and over lunch run short speed dating icebreaker interviews.	For participants to meet 3 others in the course, they did not know.	Activity over lunch
1300	Security and safety briefing	To ensure participants are aware of safety exits, alarms, facilities, etc.	Briefing
1305	Workshop lead self-introductions (one minute each)	To make participants aware of the expertise and experience in the room for their benefit.	One minute short self-introduction
1315	Workshop Opening remarks	To provide content, structure, detail and outcomes of the workshop	Briefing PowerPoint
1330	Participants introductions (one minute each, and Post-it-Note of expectations)	Each participant introduces themselves, association, background, experience, role, expectations from the workshop One minute stand up introduction as per the leads. Expectations on Large coloured Post-it-Notes for review each days	One minute short self-introduction
1400	Activity 1. Basic concept review	Based on intros, to provide a levelling by going over basic spill preparedness, planning and response concepts, as per IPIECA / IMO / ITOPF basics.	Presentation and interactive discussion activity
1500	Refreshments Break	Afternoon Tea	
1515	Desktop Scenario One. Incident report. Intelligence gathering. Briefing,	To provide an opportunity for a discussion about what a contingency plan is for, what it provides, expects and needs, to be functional. Presentation of incident report, group discussion on what that tells us, what needs to be done, and who, how, when and why, towards a draft briefing to Politician request.	Activity based on Incident Scenario 1.
1615	Fundamentals of emergency care preparation and contingency plans.	To provide participants with a clear overview of what a contingency plan is, what it is not, what should be in it, who should own it, action it, etc.	Presentations and group discussions, and individual question and answers.
1715	Review of first day, questions and comments and	To ensure the leaders have the tempo, level and engagement correct, through feedback from participants	Short recap of day, concepts and highlights. Q&A from participants
Saturday 16 Sept			
0745	Pre-start refreshments – tea / coffee, etc.	NOT replacement breakfast.	

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0800	Friday Recap	To allow issues unresolved from yesterday to be addressed prior to learning commencing.	Briefing, with Q&A
0810	Background of the ARPEL Manual for the evaluation of plans and preparations for the response to oil spills and the RETOS tool	Introduction to the technical issues and processes to be referenced throughout the day	Presentations
0910	Break	Clear the head and absorb the information	
0920	Use of the ARPEL Manual and the RETOS Tool for the Evaluation of programs for attention to hydrocarbon spills	To introduce the RETOS process and the ARPEL Manual, and what RETOS is and how to use the Manual to apply the process.	
1020	Refreshment break	Morning tea	
1035	Activity 2 - Evaluation of the Level of Implementation	To work through which of the RETOS Levels apply to your evaluation with Questions and answers.	Presentation and Group Activity.
1230	Lunch Break (provided)	Allow the participants a break from an intellectually tough morning, but keeping them together to continue engagement	Sit down networking lunch
1330	Evaluation and improvement plans	To evaluate and assess how contingency plans can be improved	
1515	Refreshment break	Afternoon Tea	
1530	Activity 3. Opportunities for Improvement and plans	To evaluate and assess how contingency plans can be improved	Group Activity 80 minutes
1650	Plenary report back and discussion		
1715	Review of second day, and questions and comments	To ensure the leaders have the tempo, level and engagement correct, through feedback from participants	Short recap of day, concepts and highlights.
1730	Close Day Two		
Sunday 17 Sept			
0815	Pre-start refreshments – tea / coffee, etc.	NOT replacement breakfast.	
0830	Activity 4- Improvement Opportunities in my contingency plan Change from Risk to Opportunity	The fundamentals of a National Contingency Plan referencing: SPREP 2023 Model NatPlan template AMSA Guide ITOPF Guide IPIECA Guide ,	Activities / lectures?
1000	Break	Morning Tea	
1015	Activity 4. Improvement Opportunities in my contingency plan Change from Risk to Opportunity	The fundamentals of a National Contingency Plan referencing: SPREP template AMSA Guide ARPEL Guide IPIECA Guide,	Activities / lectures?
1200	Break	Lunch	

Time	Topic	Objectives	Delivery mode
1300	Risk Assessment -worst credible scenario assessment	To provide participants with an alternative to traditional risk assessment for small island, remote states.	Activities / lectures?
1345	Exercise planning	An introduction to developing an exercise plan – an introduction to the <u>Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook - Managing Exercises</u> Addressing purpose, type, mode, objectives, focus, progression, activities, risk assessment, planning, and resource allocation, etc.	Activities / lectures?
1430	Training and development planning	Introduction to developing a training and development programme. Referencing the AMSA <u>Aide memoire</u> Addressing purpose, scope, function, relevance, mode, method, assessment, evaluation, products, progression, etc.	Activities / lectures?
1515	Break	Afternoon Tea	
1530	SIMA/NEBA	Introduction to Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment, as a response prioritising and decision support tool.	Activities / lectures?
1615	Commitment, Evaluation and Closing		
1645			