

**REPORT OF THE
TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE
LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA
4 MAY 2017**

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 35th Meeting of the Revolving Fund Committee held in Bukit Tinggi on 15 October 2015, the Technical Meeting was convened at Holiday Villa Beach Resort & Spa in Langkawi, Malaysia on 4 May 2017.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mokhtar bin Abdul Majid, Deputy Director General (Operation), Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia and attended by delegations from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. (The list of delegations is as attached in **Annex A**).

OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The Chairman of the Revolving Fund Committee Technical Meeting, Mr. Mokhtar bin Abdul Majid on behalf of the Director General of Environment delivered opening remarks. In this regards, he welcomed delegates from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia to Langkawi, Malaysia.

4. The chairman acknowledged that RFC has become a great platform to the three (3) littoral states to enhance and strengthen the cooperation to minimize the impact of oil pollution in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore via various approaches including capacity building, communication test and improvement of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

5. He expressed his deepest appreciation to Indonesia for managing the RFC Fund from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2016 and honoured that Malaysia was given the

responsibility to manage the administration and operation of the RFC Fund from December 2016 onwards.

6. He also informed the meeting on the arising issues which were discussed in the 35th Meeting of RFC held at Bukit Tinggi, Indonesia on 15 October 2015 which includes (i) Malaysia's proposal to include the list of dispersant in the SOP; (ii) Preparation for concept paper on the conduct of the formal safety assessment on oil spill response in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; and (iii) Malaysia's proposal to share the joint SOP on oil spill response among the ASEAN countries through the ASEAN Joint MoU on oil spill response (full opening remarks as attached in **Annex B**).

7. The Head of Delegation from Singapore, Captain Shawn Hoe thanked the Government of Malaysia for hosting the RFC Technical Meeting 2017 and for facilitating the delegates from the member countries to attend the recent ICOPCE 2017 in Singapore. He hoped this meeting would be a useful platform in sharing insights and best practices to minimize transboundary impacts of oil pollution in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. He highlighted strong collaboration between the member countries enabled the implementation of various efforts to protect the environment in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. He looked forward for more engagements and exercises through RFC platform.

8. The Head of Delegation from Indonesia, Mr. Jan Piter Daniel thanked the Government of Malaysia and conveyed the regards from the Director General of Sea and Coast Guard who was unable to come due to other commitments. He also thanked the RFC Secretariat for organizing the technical meeting after a year of inactivity and expressed their intention to present the proposal to amend the SOP based on lesson learnt from the incident of MT Alyarmouk and MV Sinar Kapuas.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9. Indonesia proposed to insert agenda item “Proposal to Amend The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Joint Oil Spill Combat in The Straits of Malacca And Singapore” into the agenda item 4 and to move agenda item 4(iv) “Concept Paper on the conduct of the Formal Safety Assessment on oil risk response in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore by Malaysia” and agenda item (4)(v) “Proposal Paper on the Use of Drones for Oil Spill Surveillance by Singapore” to (5) Other Matters.
10. The Meeting adopted the amended agenda as attached in **Annex C**.

BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

11. The Meeting agreed to discuss all agenda items in plenary.

UPDATE OF THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR JOINT OIL SPILL COMBAT IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

12. Since the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the Straits was last updated at the previous RFC Technical Meeting held in Jakarta 2015, the Chairman invited the Meeting to report any updates on the SOP.
13. Malaysia and Singapore had new update to the SOP, Section 005 Appendix 2 and Appendix 8A, 8B and 8C.
14. An updated version of the SOP is as attached in **Annex D**.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR JOINT OIL SPILL COMBAT IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

15. Indonesia proposed an amendment to the RFC SOP for Joint Oil Spill Combat in The Straits of Malacca and Singapore, taking into consideration on the lesson learnt of

oil spill response from the collision between MT Alyarmouk and MV Sinar Kapuas in January 2015. The proposed amendments involved Section 007 and Appendix 4 of the SOP as attached in **Annex E**.

16. With regards to the proposed amendment for paragraph 6(2) on daily and frequent updates of information, Malaysia and Singapore expressed their concern on the additional burden to the officials to report and update on daily basis due to high number of incidents, repetitive reports and the longer period required for the clean-up operation.

17. Malaysia reiterated that the concept of *Mutatis Mutandis* should be applied to the proposed amendment by Indonesia.

18. The meeting agreed on the amendment for Appendix 4, paragraph 2 on the insertion of item (c) response strategy (mechanical and/or chemical) proposed by Indonesia.

19. With regards to the proposed amendment for Appendix 4, paragraph 2 on the insertion of item (d) number of response resources (which will be used), the meeting agreed to provide the information on voluntary basis. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a standard template for all the three (3) littoral states via e-mail correspondence and to be presented in the next annual meeting.

PROPOSAL PAPER ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISPERSANT USAGE AND OPERATIONAL BY THE LITTORAL STATES IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

20. Malaysia presented the paper on Capacity Building for Dispersant Usage and Operational under the Revolving Fund Committee (RFC) in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore by Malaysia as attached in **Annex F**.

21. The regional workshop is to provide essential and necessary information and tools on the recent technological advancement of the dispersant usage and operational to enhance knowledge and skills. The workshop will contribute to the development of human resources and to promote mutual understanding as well as cooperation among the littoral States.

22. The allocated budget of the program will be subjected to financial status of the Fund.

23. The meeting agreed with the proposed regional workshop with amendment to the course content, to include information sharing on the list of dispersants and existing practices of dispersant usage in each country. The proposal will be revised accordingly and will be presented in the annual RFC Meeting. The proposed venue will be in Malaysia.

PROPOSAL PAPER ON HARMONIZATION ON THE DISPERSANT USAGE AND OPERATIONAL BY THE LITTORAL STATES IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE BY MALAYSIA

24. Malaysia presented on the proposed regional retreat which will be held subsequent to the Regional Workshop on the Dispersant Usage and Operation by the littoral States in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) as attached in **Annex G**.

25. The objective of the regional retreat is to establish mutual understanding and harmonization of the dispersant usage and operational by the littoral States and to consolidate the topics in the agreed Joint SOP and to contribute the development of human resources.

26. Singapore requested the title of the regional retreat to be revised in order to better reflect the objective of the program before it is presented in the next annual RFC meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

(i) CONCEPT PAPER ON THE CONDUCT OF THE FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT ON OIL RISK RESPONSE IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE BY MALAYSIA

27. Malaysia propose to conduct a formal safety assessment on oil risk response in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. The concept paper as attached in **Annex H**.

28. The assessment will take six (6) months to twelve (12) months to be completed and will be able to identify risk profile related to oil spill response from ships and related activities in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore in case of accident or incident.

29. The allocated budget of the program will be subjected to financial status of the Fund and will be presented in the annual RFC Meeting.

30. The meeting took note that the Malacca Straits Council has the capability to conduct the formal safety assessment on Oil Risk Response and agreed to integrate the Indonesia's blueprint into the proposed study.

(ii) INFORMATION PAPER ON THE USE OF DRONES FOR OIL SPILL SURVEILLANCE BY SINGAPORE

31. Singapore presented the benefits and challenges on the use of drones for oil spill surveillance as attached in **Annex I**.

32. The meeting noted on the importance of drone as a tool for aerial surveillance during oil spill incidents. However, the usage of drone should abide to the related laws and should confine within the country boundaries, to respect the security and sovereignty of the neighbouring country.

33. The meeting agreed with Indonesia's recommendation to include the use of drone in oil spill aerial surveillance in the SOP for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

34. Malaysia proposed for a drone demonstration during the Annual RFC meeting.

(iii) PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE REVOLVING FUND

35. Malaysia presented the proposal to extend the administration and operation of the Revolving fund by Malaysia as attached in **Annex J**.

36. Malaysia stated that the Revolving Fund management responsibilities was officially transferred from Indonesia to Malaysia on 30th January 2017. The extension of the management of the Revolving Fund by Malaysia is proposed to be until 31st March 2022 to ensure the administration and operation of the Revolving Fund is in the period of five years as stipulated in the paragraph 4 of the Arrangement for Establishment of Revolving Fund.

37. The meeting agreed with Malaysia's proposal and the paper will be tabled in the next RFC meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

38. Date and Venue of the next Technical Meeting will be tentatively conducted in the 2nd quarter 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

39. The Meeting considered and adopted the report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

40. The delegations of Singapore and Indonesia expressed their thanks to the Host for organizing the Technical Meeting.

41. The delegations of Malaysia expressed their thanks and gratitude to the delegates from Singapore and Indonesia for their excellent cooperation which enabled the Meeting to be concluded successfully.