



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 208 23rd November, 2009

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ISCO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Since we last gave you news on new members of ISCO, we are now pleased to introduce and welcome the following new members

- CI Agent Solutions of Louisville, Kentucky, USA (Corporate Member)
- Hidroclean Serviços Marítimos of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Corporate Member)
- Spill Tech Pty. Ltd. of Queensland, Australia (Corporate Member)
- Mr Neil Marson, Cleveland, UK (Individual Member)
- Dr Shahriar Ameri of Amirkabir University, Tehran, Iran (Individual Member)

IMO ASSEMBLY TO MEET FOR 26TH SESSION

The 26th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will meet in London at the IMO Headquarters from 23 November to 4 December 2009.

All 169 Member States and three Associate Members are entitled to attend the Assembly, which is IMO's governing body. The intergovernmental organizations with which agreements of co-operation have been concluded and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO are also invited to attend.

The Assembly normally meets once every two years in regular session. It is responsible for approving the work programme, voting the budget and determining the financial arrangements of the Organization. It also elects the 40-Member Council. <http://www.imo.org/>

CHINA TO IMPLEMENT OIL POLLUTION LEGISLATION FROM MARCH 2010

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has moved forward with plans to implement national oil pollution legislation from 1 March 2010. The Regulations on Prevention and Control of Ship-Induced Pollution to the Marine Environment were made public on 9 September but only recently have unofficial English translations been circulated.

Covering ship sourced oil pollution, and implemented by the PRC Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), the new regulations extend into the Exclusive Economic Zone and include any incident that affects PRC waters regardless of the area in which the pollution incident occurred. Compulsory insurance will be required for all oil carrying vessels over 1000gt, although it is not clear as to whether insurance carried under the PRC-ratified Civil Liability Convention 1992 and Bunker Convention will suffice. More information at: <https://www.intertanko.com/upload/China%20text.doc>

SUB-REGIONAL RISK OF SPILLS OF OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN THE BALTIC SEA (BRISK)

The overall aim of the project Sub-regional risk of spill of oil and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea (BRISK) is to increase the preparedness of all Baltic Sea countries to respond to major spills of oil and hazardous substances from shipping.

The numbers and the sizes of ships navigating in the Baltic Sea area have increased in recent years, and the transportation of oil and other hazardous substances is growing steadily. The risk of shipping accidents has increased as well. Early and well organized

response operations can be a very effective tool for reducing the environmental effects of pollution accidents. Read more at: <http://www.brisk.helcom.fi/>

USA: BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING EMS RESPONDERS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently published "Best Practices for Protecting EMS Responders during Treatment and Transport of Victims of Hazardous Substance Releases" as a guide for employers of emergency medical service (EMS) responders. The document discusses best practices employers can implement to protect their EMS responders from becoming additional victims while on the front line of medical response. <http://osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3370-protecting-EMS-respondersSM.pdf> (PDF, 1.45 Mb) [Note from Editor: Although the target audience for this publication is Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Responders, the guide also contains information that will be of interest to non-medical chemical/HNS response organisations. Thanks to pcjr of Hazmat 101 Group for relaying this alert]

ITOPF: NEW EDITION OF OCEAN ORBIT JUST PUBLISHED

ITOPF has just published a new issue of its newsletter Ocean Orbit, which this year features articles on incidents in the Bay of Gibraltar, Australia and Taiwan, China. We also highlight some of our activities in China and report on our involvement in environmental damage issues and HNS. <http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/#oceanorbit>

AUSTRALIA: CREATION OF NEW DATABASE FOR CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

John O'meara, a member of the DG & Hazmat Group, has created a new database on the Group's website for recording Australian Chemical Incidents. In order to add information to the database Members of the DG & Hazmat Group will need to go to the URL <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods/database?method=reportRows&tbl=1> and hit the tab "Add Record". Non-members will first have to join the Group (there is no charge for membership). You can join by sending an email with your contact details to DangerousGoods-subscribe@yahogroups.com

USA: CONTRACTORS TO CHECK CLEAN-UPS

Private oversight of contaminated site clean-ups quietly began this month with almost 100 people receiving temporary licenses from the state Department of Environmental Protection to do the work. The new program represents a controversial sea change that advocates say will speed up the remediation of some 20,000 sites statewide, many of which have languished because of large staff cuts at the DEP. Critics say the Licensed Site Remediation Professionals program is ripe for corruption with the DEP abandoning too much of its watchdog role.

"People want to move these cases to closure and that's what will happen," said Irene Kropp, an assistant DEP commissioner who was one of the principle architects of the new program, which is modeled after one in Massachusetts. "I think it's an excellent thing for the environment in New Jersey."

The sites — about 2,700 in Bergen and Passaic counties — range from factories and utility plants to gas stations and private homes with leaky oil tanks. The 400 most contaminated sites will still be overseen by the DEP and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

INDIA: ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER CHANGE OF NAME

ISCO Member, Clean Sea Enterprises, based in Mumbai, India, has changed its name to Viraj Clean Sea Enterprises (P) Ltd. The company, founded in 1999, is a provider of oil spill response, consultancy, training, equipment supply and other services to the Indian Government and most of the leading oil companies in India. The backbone of the organization is its team of committed ex-officers and sailors of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard who possess a wealth of hands-on experience in the field of oil spill response. The company covers its entire operations in India through its offices in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, Jamnagar, Gujarat and Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Delhi. <http://www.cleanseaent.com/home.html>

USA: EPA - TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

Fifty-four short reports with links for more information on topics that include CBRN response, remediation techniques, groundwater treatment, soil cleaning, vapour intrusion, mine waste treatment, pesticides, etc. <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

TURKEY: TECHNICAL STUDY MEETING ON NATIONAL DISPERSANT USE POLICY

Thirty-one participants from various Turkish Government ministries, departments and institutions as well as from the private sector attended the Meeting on 26-28 October, 2009. The Meeting reviewed, with the technical support provided by REMPEC and the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI), the first draft regulation on the national dispersant use policy proposed by the Turkish competent authority. Further national consultations on the reviewed document are expected to take place prior to its approval. <http://www.rempec.org/newsmore.asp?id=264&lang=en>

AEGEAN MARINE PETROLEUM NETWORK INC. AWARDED STAND-BY OIL SPILL RECOVERY SERVICES CONTRACT BY EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

Aegean Marine Petroleum Network Inc. announced its Belgian subsidiary, Aegean Bunkers at Sea N.V., has been awarded a contract by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to increase the available oil pollution response capacity in the English Channel and its Atlantic approaches.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Sara, a 1990-built and 2003-upgraded 7,233 dwt double-hull bunkering tanker, will serve on stand-by through 2013 in the event the vessel is required to provide oil spill recovery services. Aegean acquired the Sara in October 2007 in connection with its acquisition of Bunkers at Sea, a Belgium-based marketer and physical supplier of marine fuel. The vessel will continue to provide bunkering services in the area during the stand-by period. Read more: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aegean-marine-petroleum-network-inc-awarded-stand-by-oil-spill-recovery-services-contract-by-european-maritime-safety-agency-70611667.html>

UK SPILL ASSOCIATION: 2010 AGM AND DINNER

The 2010 Annual General Meeting and Dinner will be held in Southampton on 28th January 2010. The AGM will be held at the OSR (Oil Spill Response) Base, followed by dinner at a venue to be announced later. <http://www.ukspill.org>

UK: BRITISH FIRM KEEPS EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PREPARED

A British company set up by the government more than 60 years ago to provide work for soldiers maimed during World War II has morphed into a world leader in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) protection. Now it is preparing to compete for a potentially huge U.S. military requirement for lightweight suits. The company, Remploy, has gone from making violins in 1946 to becoming a top supplier of CBRN suits for military and emergency service personnel, as a spinout from a now-defunct textile operation. <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4376830&c=FEA&s=BUS>

USA: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR CONTAMINATED SITE REMEDIATION AND GAS VAPOR INTRUSION MANAGEMENT

December 01, 2009 – Farmington, CT - This event is designed to provide the most current information on the state-of-the-art low cost treatment of subsurface media such as soil and groundwater in addition to gas vapor intrusion management. Attendees will receive a complimentary breakfast and a range of seminar reference materials including a book entitled: Cost-Effective Groundwater Remediation Selected Battelle Conference Papers. http://www.regenesis.com/resources/seminars/info/cal_detail.aspx?cid=48

USA: 2009 NGWA GROUND WATER EXPO

December 10-13 - New Orleans - Water well contractors, scientists and engineers, manufacturers, and suppliers—gather as partners in progress to explore new solutions to today's new challenges, along with the opportunities they present. <http://www.ngwa.org/2009expo/index.aspx>

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.