



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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GRAND HYATT HOTEL
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12-16 APRIL 2010

International Oil Spill Conference
www.spillcon.com

REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONTINUES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IMO'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AGENDA

The Republic of Korea has continued its long-term support for IMO's technical co-operation activities with another generous financial donation.

On Tuesday, 24 November 2009, Mr Choi Jang Hyun, Vice-Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, handed over a cheque for more than US\$650,000 to IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, comprising US\$50,000 from the Korean Shipowners' Association, US\$100,000 from the Korean Register of Shipping and US\$508,683 from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The donation was made in the context of an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Korea and IMO for the purpose of helping developing countries improve their ability to comply with international rules and standards relating to maritime safety, maritime security and prevention and control of marine pollution. Read the complete report at <http://www.imo.org/>

IMO COUNCIL 103 MEETING ON 4th DECEMBER 2009

ISCO President, Mr David Usher will be representing ISCO at this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS AT ITOPF – TRANSPETRO SEMINAR IN BRAZIL

Co-operation in oil spill preparedness and response was a major theme of this seminar held at Rio de Janeiro on 18th November, 2009. Copies of the presentations can be downloaded at <http://www.itopf.com/information-services/publications/papers/rio.html>

NEW NETWORK LAUNCHED FOR RESPONSE TO MARINE WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES



Last week membership opened for EMPOWER, a pan-European network of organisations that have joined forces to improve the professionalism and capacity of responses to marine wildlife emergencies. EMPOWER will support wildlife rescue organisations, veterinarians and scientists to work effectively with their authorities in cases where large numbers of seabirds, marine mammals or marine turtles suddenly wash ashore with health problems.

An oil or chemical spill, a toxic algae bloom or another emergency in the marine environment may suddenly threaten the lives of seabirds, marine mammals or marine turtles that are dependent of the affected area. If these animals become polluted their chances of survival are minimal. An emergency response in which wildlife responders are immediately mobilised may reduce the mortality. As part of such a response, scientific information must be collected to allow a reliable assessment of the impact the pollution had on the different populations.

Governments of European coastal countries are increasingly becoming aware that response plans should be in place for these emergencies. Over the last few years, countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and the Netherlands have developed wildlife response plans as part of their marine pollution emergency response plans. Following these examples, the countries bordering the Baltic, North Mediterranean and Black Seas are considering taking similar steps. Some fundamental decisions to this end have been taken in international meetings where these countries cooperate in the field of marine pollution response preparedness.

EMPOWER aims to prepare and support Non Governmental Organisations to work with their governments and make the wildlife response plans effective. The new network seeks to ensure that structural relationships between NGOs and oil spill authorities are developed and maintained in all coastal European countries and are formalised as part of national oil spill response plans. EMPOWER was first initiated in 2008 by Sea Alarm Foundation, together with a core group of 8 Founding Members from across Europe. Sea Alarm Foundation will act as the secretariat of EMPOWER and will be the main catalyst of the activities of the network. The other Founding Members have taken a seat in the Steering Committee which in the future will have a rotation scheme to reflect the backgrounds and interests of the Membership. Sea Alarm is enabled to play its catalyst role through operational grants it receives from the European Commission and the oil industry.

“EMPOWER is a new chapter in our ten year history in which we have been encouraging wildlife responders and authorities to take the necessary steps towards a greater level of preparedness” says Hugo Nijkamp, Sea Alarm’s General Manager. “From the beginning of the year 2000 Sea Alarm has been cooperating with European wildlife groups and creating an international network of similar minded organisations that want to be prepared. The creation of EMPOWER will mean the formalisation of that network. Seventy to over a hundred organisations from across Europe may eventually join. With a greater visibility of who we are and what we want, we are confident that authorities will lose much of their cold water fear to partner with NGO’s in emergency situations. We have some success stories from different countries which demonstrate that such cooperation is essential and can be very effective. In the situation where climate change increasingly causes problems in the breeding success of many seabird populations, the effective response to emergencies will become more and more important.” <http://www.sea-alarm.org/>

USA: STUDENTS PRACTICE HANDS-ON FAST WATER AND RIVER SPILL RESPONSE



With the help of instructor John Joe Dec, students deploy the V-Sweep system into the Ohmsett tank to observe how it reacts with oil in currents during the Fast Water and River Response course at Ohmsett.

Oil has been spilled into the bay and response personnel have been called to protect the outfall from being impinged with oil. The steps the responders take are critical in protecting the outfall before it discharges back into the bay. What strategies do they use? What equipment should be deployed? Responders deployed two layers of boom and placed them across the mouth of the outfall and used a deflection boom in a cascading strategy to divert the oil away from the outfall. The first boom section was anchored to the shore and the other section was anchored beyond the first section, again to divert the oil away. This is the scenario that took place on the shoreline of the Sandy Hook Bay during one of the hands-on exercises at the Fast Water and River Response course held at Ohmsett.

Read the complete article at <http://www.ohmsett.com/OHMSETT/Fall%20Winter%202009.pdf>

FINSTASHIP AND EMSA CONCLUDE AN OIL RECOVERY SERVICE CONTRACT



Willem De Ruiter, Director, EMSA (left) and Tero Vauraste, CEO, Finstaship (right).

A contract has been concluded between Finstaship and the European Maritime Safety Agency EMSA on stand-by vessel oil recovery service and oil recovery work in the Northern Baltic Sea. The contract period is three years, including an option for additional three years.

Stand-by oil recovery services and any oil recovery work under this contract will be provided by icebreaker Kontio. The starting date of the service, which will be in place round the year, is 1 July 2010. While providing the standby service, Kontio will also continue to serve in icebreaking duties like before.

Design work to equip Kontio as an EMSA oil recovery vessel will start immediately. The actual alterations will mainly be implemented after the closing of the icebreaking season.

"We think of this contract as a breakthrough of new, innovative thinking. In the future, we will need vessels suitable for a variety of tasks to cover even more widely than before the depreciations and expenses of icebreakers and other specialised vessels. This is an excellent example of that kind of thinking", says Mr Tero Vauraste, President of Finstaship. Read more at <http://www.skargardsrederiet.fi/en/?c=2>

CANADA: MAJOR OIL SPILL EQUIPMENT CONTRACT AWARDED BY CANADIAN COAST GUARD TO CANADYNE TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Canadyne Technologies Inc. (Canadyne) has been awarded one of the largest oil spill containment boom contracts in Canadian history: over 12,000 m of Canadyne FenceBoom for use in Canada's harshest environment: the Arctic.

The equipment has been procured for use by the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), and is destined for distribution to 13 locations within the Central and Arctic Region, including Yellowknife, Iqualuit, and Tuktoyaktuk. This area contains more than 70 percent of Canada's coastline and encompasses approximately 65 percent of Canada's marine waters. The region covers the Arctic seas, the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, west of Beauharnois, and inland and coastal waters of Nunavut, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the North Slope of the Yukon. Canadyne is proud to play a role in protecting Canada's waterways. Canadyne has supplied oil containment boom and skimmers to key government clients within Canada, including the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND), as well as Coast Guards, refineries, oil companies, and oil spill response organizations (OSRO's) around the world. For more information, go to <http://www.canatec.com>

IMO INFO GATHERING ON MARINE HNS RESPONSE AND SUBSEA OIL RECOVERY

Response contractors and others that can contribute information to assist the OPRC-HNS Working Group can now download the information gathering templates. Simply go to the ISCO website at <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and select DOWNLOADS from the menu on the left hand side of the page. Your contribution will be acknowledged and it's an opportunity for you to raise your profile. We need to know who out there has the know-how and experience. Don't hide your light under a bushel !

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.