



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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IRAQ JOINS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AFTER CANCELLATION OF DEBT

January 20 - The Ministry of Environment in Iraq that Iraq has regained its membership in the Regional Organization for the Protection of the marine environment after that hung in 1991, pointing out that the organization dropped the majority of the accumulated debt of Iraq and the rest of them decided to installment payment, while the ministry revealed the government's contribution Japanese developed a contingency plan to cope with large oil pollution incidents in the potential of the marine environment of Iraq.

The Director of the Directorate of Environment in the South Taha Yasin Qureshi told a news conference that "Iraq has recently regained his membership in the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, which decided to cancel the 20 billion dinars of debt accumulated by installments and pay the remaining debt over ten years." Read more: <http://currencynewshound.wordpress.com/2011/01/20/iraq-joins-regional-organization-for-the-protection-of-the-marine-environment-after-cancellation-of-debt/>

GREECE: LMT WINS LLOYD'S LIST AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Professor Harilaos Psaraftis receiving the award from David Moorhouse, CBE, chairman of the board of directors and chairman of sponsor, Lloyd's Register Group. Professor Psaraftis is the ISCO Member of Council for Greece.

LMT has won the "Award for Achievement in Safety or Environmental Protection" at the 2010 Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards. This award is given to any Greek individual, crew, company or organization whose act, initiative or product has contributed to either safety or protecting the environment, or both.

The award was received by the Director of LMT, Professor Harilaos N. Psaraftis on Friday December 10, 2008, at the seventh anniversary of the Greek Shipping Awards. Close to

1,000 people attended the annual presentation dinner at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel in Athens that paid tribute to the world's largest shipowning community, their service partners and some of the industry's outstanding achievements during the preceding year. The Greek government was represented by the Minister of Maritime Affairs, Island Policy and Fisheries Mr. Ioannis Diamantidis.

LMT is centrally active at the IMO, both at the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and at the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). At MSC, Prof. Psaraftis is a member of the expert group on Formal Safety Assessment. At MEPC, he chaired since 2007 a correspondence group on environmental risk evaluation

criteria (oil pollution), chaired a working group on the same subject at MEPC 60 [Thanks to Member of ISCO Council, Prof. Harilaos Psaraffis for sending LMT Newsletter No 15.] You can read the complete text of this article and more in the January 2011 LMT Newsletter <http://www.martrans.org/news.htm>

KUWAIT OPENS PRE-QUALIFICATION ROUND FOR OIL SPILL CLEANUP

January 17 – Kuwait Oil Co., the state-owned producer, is inviting international companies to pre-qualify as consultants for a project to clean up oil spills created during the 1991 Gulf War.

“There is an estimated 60 million cubic meters of contaminated soil that needs to be remediated,” Sami al-Rushaid, chairman of KOC, said today as he announced that the prequalification will end Feb. 14. According to the United Nations Compensation Commission, almost \$3 billion has been designated for the cleanup, al-Rushaid told reporters at Al- Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City.

Kuwait, holder of the world’s sixth-largest reserves and the fifth-biggest producer in OPEC, was invaded by Iraq in August 1990. Saddam Hussein’s troops set fire to more than 700 oil wells across Kuwait as they were beaten back seven months later.

“The total value of environmental repair projects to be conducted by KOC amounts to more than \$2 billion,” said Redha al-Hasan, program manager at Kuwait National Focal Point, which is in charge of the restoration. Read more: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-17/kuwait-opens-pre-qualification-round-for-oil-spill-cleanup.html>

USA: INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NEW STRUCTURE FOR REGULATING DEEPWATER DRILLING

January 19 – The Interior Department created two independent bureaus and an advisory panel on Wednesday as Secretary Ken Salazar announced widespread structural changes designed to streamline federal regulation and response to emergencies related to deepwater oil drilling.

In the third major reorganization since the April 2010 massive oil spill from BP’s Macando well in the Gulf of Mexico, Salazar announced he was “deconflicting” what for three decades had been the Minerals Management Service, by breaking its successor bureau, created in May 2010, into two new entities: the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will manage development of offshore resources through leasing and analysis of economic and environmental impact; and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will enforce regulations through permitting, inspections and oil spill response. Read the complete text of this article at: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=46908&oref=todaysnews

TECHNOLOGY

SUPER-ABSORBENT MATERIAL HOLDS PROMISE FOR SPILL CLEANUP AND REMEDIATION

January 20 – A new super-absorbent, 'swellable' glass material could prove useful in oil spill cleanups, groundwater remediation, and removal of pollutants such as pesticides and pharmaceutical products from water.

The product, called 'Osorb', is a nanostructure material comprised of silicon atoms bound to a proprietary organic compound. The filtration material absorbs organic contaminants the way a sponge soaks up water; once it has absorbed the contaminants, they can be physically removed from the silica material by heating or rinsing and the filtration product reused over and over, says Paul Edmiston, an analytical chemist at the College of Wooster and the chief science officer of [ABSMaterials, Inc.](http://www.absmaterials.com), a company based in Wooster, Ohio.



Edmiston discussed the product’s potential for spill cleanup and remediation during a webcast today hosted by the National Science Foundation, which has provided several grants to ABSMaterials. The company was awarded a \$200,000 NSF RAPID grant in 2010 to study Osorb’s potential to help clean up fouled water during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The discovery of the material’s properties was “serendipitous”, says Edmiston. The process is entirely mechanical: the material expands as it captures organic molecules, a process that Edmiston describes as a “mechanical explosion”. This swelling process is energetic: every gram of Osorb can lift about two kilograms of weight, so “about a thermos can lift your car,” Edmiston says. Read more: http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2011/01/superabsorbent_material_holds.html

EVENTS

For more comprehensive information on upcoming events & training courses click [HERE](#) and select "Events"

ISAA: STEERING GROUP MEETING – FEBRUARY 21

The next meeting of the International Spill Accreditation Association's All-Ireland Accreditation Scheme Steering Group will take place at 2 p.m. at the office of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in Lisburn. The meeting agenda will be sent out to all stakeholders later this week.

Courtesy of MCA and NIEA, personnel from ISAA accredited companies have been invited to join NIEA and Council staff in a theoretical and practical training course on Shoreline Clean-up. This will take place at Lisburn and Carrickfergus on February 22 and 23. The objective is to increase the numbers of personnel who are competent to assist in the response to a major shoreline pollution event. All of the available places on the course have been taken up.

SWEDEN: OIL SPILL RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, MALMÖ 7-9 MARCH, 2011

As we are getting closer to the WMU-IMO conference on Oil Spill Risk Management we are pleased to announce that the event is attracting interests from academia from all over the world; both through registrations and abstract submissions. The detailed programme will be made available on the university website at the end of the month. The conference is sponsored by IPIECA, OGP, ITOFF, DESMI, Baltic Maser II, IUCN, SSPA and TransAtlantic. As during previous WMU conferences the city of Malmö will be sponsoring the conference dinner at the Malmö Town Hall. More info: <http://www.wmu.se/Calendar/OilSpillRiskManagement2011/tabid/332/Default.aspx>

AUSTRALIA: HAZMAT 2011 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Sydney, Australia. May 11-12, 2011 - Hazmat 2011 is the key hazardous materials, chemical management and dangerous goods conference and exhibition in Australia. Held over two days, presentations by leading industry experts and international key note speakers cover current issues and future topics, such as: + Risk Assessment & Management + Major Hazards + Dangerous Goods + Security & Training + Chemical Management. 2011 will see the conference return to Sydney on Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 May. This time to be held in the Southee Complex at the Sydney Show Grounds. More info: <http://www.fpa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat>

USA: NEW JERSEY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

Atlantic City, May 2-6, 2011 - The New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference has expanded greatly over the past several years. We have tried to enhance our program to best serve the needs of New Jersey's Emergency Managers and our private partners in the emergency management community. Our commitment is to present timely and informative, up-to-date preparedness information and training to better prepare Emergency Managers and ultimately the public we serve. More info: <http://www.njepa.org/main/conference.asp>

CHINA: SHANGHAI 6TH INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICAL NATURAL GAS TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION

Shanghai, China. 21-23 September, 2011 - The SIPPE is a focal project of the Shanghai Municipal Government and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). The exhibition is jointly hosted by the CCPIT Pudong Sub-Council, Shanghai Petroleum Society, and organized by Shanghai Aiexpo Exhibition Service Co., Ltd. Over the five years, with support from domestic and overseas enterprises, the SIPPE has grown in scale year by year, a cumulative total 1600 enterprises from over 30 countries and regions have participated in the exhibition, at the same time attracting over 45000 professional audiences from over 40 countries and regions, cumulative trade resulting from the show stands at \$1.5 billion USD. More info at: <http://www.sippe.org.cn/>

PUBLICATIONS

USA EPA: TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The December 1-15, 2010 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development. The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

IMO: DIGITAL ISSUE OF IMO NEWS MAGAZINE

The latest issue of the IMO News magazine is available for download at: <http://www.imo.org:80/MediaCentre/NewsMagazine/Pages/Home.aspx>



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing the tenth part of a paper contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the International Spill Accreditation Association.

HARMONISATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT (PART TEN)

As to the knowledge-omitting UK contingency plan, it was clear that WSL was the only interested-party with the first-hand knowledge which had ostensibly given rise to the need for a new response unit; that the advice given by other interested-parties would either be second-hand endorsement of this WSL-knowledge or conflicting belief offered by those with no directly relevant knowledge; that belief in species-extinction/ecological disaster would oppose the use of dispersants and support mechanical recovery in ignorance of their respective strengths and weaknesses in defined circumstances (c.f. article 1); and that all meetings of the so-called interested-parties would thus debate opinions the knowledge-content of which would always be insufficient to resolve their belief-contents to anything other than a belief-consensus which would move or swing on a daily basis. It also became clear that this new unit and its contingency plan were concerned only with control of sea-going response contractors; that its staff and contractors would stand-down when the pollutant stranded; and that no parallel unit was to be established for shoreline response, this having been devolved to individual local authorities which were thus left to their own devices. Thus, while I argued successfully for provision of a central government stockpile of shoreline response equipment specified on the WSL knowledge-base and for provision of appropriate training by WSL staff and ex-staff, responsibility for actual shoreline-cleaning remained with individual local government administrations.

As to why national contingency plans do nothing to maintain knowledge and consist of the contact numbers of non-experts in sufficient numbers to out-weigh the experts, it could be hypothesised that the belief consensus which thus emerges is intended to absolve central government of responsibility for the outcome of incidents both at sea and onshore, a hypothesis which appears to be reality-validated¹ by all official incident reports from that of the *Torrey Canyon* to that of the *Deepwater Horizon*. As to how this belief-reliance is to be replaced with knowledge-reliance to the benefit of environment, public and industry, it must be concluded that the contingency plans of those with Powers of Intervention need to describe how response to individual incidents will be conducted on the basis of knowledge (c.f. articles 1 - 9) with debate being limited to prioritisation of knowledge-based options, if debate is required at all.

Thus, contingency plans must maintain all knowledge relevant to response and must identify the quantification needed to create incident-specific action plans (c.f. articles 4 and 8). Such contingency plans must, therefore, include a data-base of all physicochemical/toxicological properties and parameters relevant to fates, effects, response needs and satisfactions for all releases in all locations and circumstances. Again, they must provide a template for quantifying specific incidents by insertion of incident-specific values for pollutant properties and the fate and effect parameters relevant to determining whether response is possible, necessary or unnecessary in specific locations and circumstances; to selecting appropriate response options; and to maximising their cost-effective application. Yet again, such contingency plans must provide a template for developing incident-specific action plans which identify the response techniques and equipment to be used and the means of preventing further release on the basis of incident-specific quantifications. Thus, my colleague, Weird Koops, is currently computerising the data-base for the first contingency plan to satisfy the need for knowledge maintenance despite staff changes, and to provide templates for all future incident-specific quantifications and all future incident-specific action plans (c.f. article 6).

As to why such contingency/quantification/action plans must be made, we have seen that failure to do so will increase the socio-political difficulties already confronting the oil and shipping industries; that harmonisation of technology and environment on the basis of knowledge is the only possible solution to these difficulties; that environmentalist belief in species extinction/ecological disaster will otherwise do yet more harm to the individual organisms and to the commercial amenity and fishing interests it purports to protect, while depriving humanity of the welfare benefits of cost-effective technology; and that correction of this perversity requires the public, politicians and media to be made aware of the invitation now extended to the environmentalist lobby to reality-validate or reality-refute its beliefs as its contribution to the knowledge-based harmonisation of technology and environment which is commended in this Column and its referenced sources.

1 The *Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

USA: GLOBAL DIVING & SALVAGE OPEN NEW FACILITY IN HOUSTON

Global Diving & Salvage has opened a new office in Houston – GD&S President Devon Grenning said “the opening of this new office not only increases our capabilities to serve our existing customers but will also enable us to offer our other core service lines – casualty response management and operations, marine construction support services, and marine environmental operations – to this dynamic market. This further cements our commitment to the Gulf of Mexico Region”.

USA / PORTUGAL: KVICHAK MARINE INDUSTRIES - 30' RAPID RESPONSE SKIMMER DELIVERED TO ADMINISTRAÇÃO DO PORTO DE SINES, S.A.



Kvichak Marine Industries has recently delivered a 30' Rapid Response Oil Skimmer fitted with a Kvichak/Marco Pollution Control CL-1 Filterbelt oil recovery module to Administração do Porto de Sines (APS), Portugal.

This is the second skimming vessel fitted with the Kvichak/Marco Filterbelt in the APS response fleet, the first was delivered in 1976 and is still in service. Construction of the skimmer was supervised at Kvichak Marine in Seattle by representatives of APS, and the vessel was delivered early, in less than 10 weeks from contract execution. Read more: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/pressrelease/30-rapid-response-skimmer-delivered-administracao-do-porto-de-sines-s-2011-01-20/>

CORRESPONDENCE

Forum for letters from readers – Send letters to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

GHANA: ISCO MEMBER SEEKS TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Letter received from Joseph Ato Koomson

"Welseas Africa Company Ltd. has recently become a member of ISCO and I am writing to introduce myself and the company.

Welseas Africa Company Ltd. is based in Ghana and operates a wide range of services for the marine industry. The company is planning to extend its operations by developing an oil spill response unit in Ghana and the West African Region as a whole. Welseas is currently looking to establish links with international spill response contractors, manufacturers of oil spill response equipment and materials in Ghana to develop capacity-building in the oil fields across West Africa to combat oil spillage. If you are interested in teaming up with my company please contact me at welseas@yahoo.com.

With best regards, Joseph Ato Koomson"

UK: MARINE POLLUTION SEMINAR – 50% DISCOUNT FOR ISCO MEMBERS

Letter received from Martin Fewster of Lloyds Maritime Academy

"Following on from the new format of Lloyd's Maritime Academy's Marine Pollution seminar last year, which sold out, I'd like to make you aware of this event being held in London over March 16-17, 2011. This seminar will be chaired again by Måns Jacobsson, former Director of the IOPC Funds, and focuses on pollution both by oil and by other hazardous substances. More information can be found at <http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/marinepollution>

The programme has been carefully revised in discussions among Måns, the event organisers, and the speakers, with the aim of covering all the key topics and stimulating debate on issues of current concern. As the success of the event depends on contributions from the audience as much as those from the speakers, we hope that the 2011 programme will appeal not only to those seeking to broaden their knowledge but also to those who are already familiar with this field and have interests in current trends and developments.

To support these aims Lloyd's Maritime Academy has kindly agreed to allow special discounts this year on bookings received from ISCO members. The full price is £1,499 plus VAT, but for bookings **before 28th January 2011** discounts are available firstly of £200 (i.e. a reduction to £1,299 plus VAT, which is open to all delegates), and secondly of 50% (for bookings made by ISCO members), further reducing the figure to £649.50 plus VAT. To take advantage of these discounts, anyone wishing to attend should email Martin Fewster at Informa (Martin.Fewster@informa.com) with their contact details and he will take care of their registration. Alternatively, they can register online at www.lloydsmaritimeacademy.com/KS0272MNEM, quoting **VIP Code: KS0272MNEM** to claim the special 50% discount.

With thanks and kind regards, Martin Fewster"

EGYPT: 2011 TRAINING COURSES – 10% DISCOUNT FOR ISCO MEMBERS

Details of IMO Level 1 & 2 Oil Spill Response in Hurghada and Sharm El-Shiekh have just been uploaded on the ISCO website at http://www.spillcontrol.org/Joomla/index.php?option=com_joomlabook&e_id=1

Courtesy of ISCO Member of Council for Egypt and PESCO, the 10% course fees discount available to ISCO members has been extended for 2011. When booking, please quote the number on your membership certificate. For more info and registration send email to training.pesco@pescoeg.com or visit the website at <http://www.pescoeg.com/training.php>

ISCO AGM AT IOSC, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the International Oil Spill Conference being held over May 23-26 in Portland, Oregon. The date and timing of the ISCO AGM have not yet been fixed – a further announcement will be made soon.

The advance Programme and Registration for the Conference are now available at <http://iosc.org:80/eblast1.aspx>

The Guest Speakers at IOSC have just been announced –

OPENING PLENARY SESSION - Michael Specter

Michael Specter has been a staff writer at The New Yorker since 1998. His most recent book, "Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress, Harms the Planet, and Threatens Our Lives," was published on October 29, 2009. Specter writes often about science, technology, and public health. Since joining the magazine, he has written several articles about the world's diminishing freshwater resources, synthetic biology and the debate over the meaning of our carbon footprint. <http://www.michaelspecter.com/>

CLOSING CEREMONY - Admiral Thad Allen

Thad William Allen is a retired United States Coast Guard admiral who served as the 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard. Allen is best known for his widely-praised performance directing the federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region from September 2005 to January 2006. On April 30, 2010, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that Allen would serve as the National Incident Commander for the federal government's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Even after his end of service as Commandant on May 25, 2010, Allen continued to serve on active duty in the Coast Guard as National Incident Commander.

Don't miss the second half of the Plenary Session with a special presentation on the Montara Well Head Spill off the coast of Australia!

ISCO will publish more news about IOSC later. Work has started on preparing the Agenda for the ISCO AGM and Meeting Documents will be circulated to Members as soon as ready. In the meantime, Members are invited to contact the Secretary if they have any items they would like to be included in the Meeting Agenda.

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