



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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## INTERNATIONAL SALVAGE UNION CREATES GENERAL MANAGER POSITION

ISU's Development Adviser, John Noble, has been appointed as ISU's General Manager. The President of the ISU will continue to be a senior figure from one of the ISU's member companies and will continue to lead the organisation; chair its Executive Committee and be its chief representative. The General Manager will work alongside the Secretary General, Mike Lacey; Legal Adviser, Archie Bishop and Communications Adviser, James Herbert.



The General Manager will focus on supporting the President and Executive Committee in their work to promote the ISU and the work of its members as well as assisting the Secretary General in the administration of the ISU.

John Noble said: "The ISU has many important and current issues such as the continued use of Lloyd's Open Form, environmental salvage, wreck removal matters, the forthcoming SCOPIC Tariff review, places of refuge and salvage industry recruitment and training. I look forward to continuing to bring my 40 years of marine experience to bear on behalf of the ISU. [Editor's Note: John is a valued member of ISCO and we wish him well in his new job] [http://www.marine-salvage.com/media\\_information/index.asp?page=press/ISU%20creates%20General%20Manager%20position.htm](http://www.marine-salvage.com/media_information/index.asp?page=press/ISU%20creates%20General%20Manager%20position.htm)

## EUROPE: EDA MEETING ON MARITIME SURVEILLANCE



In the picture: EMSA staff and the European Defence Agency's 'Wise Pen Team'.

On 16 September a delegation of the European Defence Agency's 'Wise Pen Team' visited EMSA. Admirals Hebrard, Dymock and Fernando del Pozo exchanged views with EMSA's Executive Director

on the capabilities of the Agency in the field of maritime surveillance, focusing on the functionality of SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet and the EU LRIT Data Centre. The Wise Pen Team is tasked to produce a conceptual document on maritime surveillance, and is currently visiting all institutions which have a role or interest in maritime surveillance. <http://www.emsa.europa.eu>

## **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY WORKSHOP ON CO-OPERATION IN PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The report on this workshop has just been published on the MOIG website at [http://www.moig.org/Workshop%20Marseille%20May%202009/downloads/REMPEC-MOIG-WG.1.5%20-%20REPORT%20\(E\)%20-%20Consolidated.pdf](http://www.moig.org/Workshop%20Marseille%20May%202009/downloads/REMPEC-MOIG-WG.1.5%20-%20REPORT%20(E)%20-%20Consolidated.pdf)

REMPEC in cooperation with MOIG and with the participation of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) organised the Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Cooperation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean Sea, which was held in Marseille, from 11 to 12 May 2009. All Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, represented by 38 participants attended the Workshop with representatives from the Mediterranean oil industry (EGPC, Eni, ETAP, Exxon mobil, NOC, Petro-Canada, Shell/STASCO, TANKMED, Total, Marathon and Sonatrach).

### **EUROPE: EXPERIMENTATION IN THE NORTH SEA**

An agent from *Cedre* took part in an experimental programme in the North Sea carried out from 28 September to 1st October, for which scientific leadership was ensured by the Dutch organisation NIOZ. This trial involved two spills of crude oil, of 1 and 5 m<sup>3</sup> respectively. The first slick was immediately treated with dispersants while the second was monitored for 2 days. Water samples containing dissolved oil fractions were regularly taken for analysis using different chemical and biological techniques. *Cedre* suggested analysing dissolved aromatic hydrocarbons using the SBSE technique as part of this study.

<http://www.cedre.fr/>

### **IRELAND TO JOIN NORTH SEA SCHEME TO COMBAT POLLUTION**

Ireland's "Exclusive Economic Zone" waters are soon to be incorporated into the "Bonn Agreement" in a bid to combat illegal and accidental pollution. The greater North Sea includes the North Sea, the English Channel, the waters around Ireland and parts of the Western Approaches and the Norwegian Sea.

Earlier this month in Bonn, Germany, North Sea states and the European Community agreed on a framework for a revised action plan (Bonn Agreement) that will strengthen joint prevention and response to marine pollution caused by shipping, other maritime activities and offshore structures such as Oil rigs and wind farms.

Read more at: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/23862/>

### **USA: GUIDELINES FOR METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORY CLEAN-UP**

The *Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup* provides technical guidance for state and local personnel responsible for methamphetamine (meth) lab cleanup. The *Guidelines* are based on an extensive review of the best available science and practices and addresses general cleanup activities, identifies best practices for specific items or materials, discusses sampling procedures, and provides additional technical resources. [Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup \(PDF\)](#) (48 pp, 1.3M)

### **USA: EPA PLANS TO DEVELOP INTERIM PRELIMINARY REMEDIATION GOALS FOR DIOXIN IN SOIL**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a plan to develop interim preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) for dioxin in soil at Superfund sites. The plan includes a review of current dioxin cleanup guidance that has been established by the EPA, states and other countries, including the latest fully peer-reviewed dioxin toxicity assessments. EPA will release the draft interim PRGs for public comment in December 2009, and anticipates issuing the final interim PRGs in June 2010. EPA is currently

undertaking a reassessment of dioxin, the results of which are expected to be released by the end of 2010.

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultteachpressrelease.aspx?cid=5843&codi=72655>

### **AUSTRALIA: THIRD OIL SPILL PLUG ATTEMPT FAILS**

Experts on board the West Triton drilling rig in the Timor Sea are now deliberating when next to try plugging a huge oil leak after the failure of Saturday's third attempt.

Oil has been leaking at PTTEP Australasia's Montara well-head platform more than 200 kilometres off the Kimberley coast since August 21.

The Thai-based firm says data gathered during the three previous attempts will be used to fine-tune the next effort. More: <http://www.skynews.com.au/national/article.aspx?id=384148>

### **TURKEY: CEDRE ASSISTS WITH SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING**

Turkey is setting up its national organisation for response to water pollution by oil. Following two visits to *Cedre* in 2007 and 2008, the Chemistry and Environment Institute at the Marmara Research Center (MRC), in charge of this programme, asked Cedre to lead a training course for the main organisations involved. Twenty-four representatives of maritime affairs, the ministries in charge of the environment and forestry and MRC attended a training course, from 8 to 11 September on the MRC premises in Gebze, on spill crisis management, focusing on feedback from past major accidents. <http://www.cedre.fr/>

### **INDIA: COAST GUARD VEHICLE TO CLEAN SEA**

The Mumbai coast guard's pollution response team (west) is set to purchase three modern pollution control vehicles (PCVs) to ensure a cleaner sea off the western shores. Induction of PCVs in the Coast Guard's fleet, along with other modern equipment to control oil spills and pollution, will be complete in six months, officials said.

This also takes coastal agencies an inch closer towards a vital Tier-III facility, to handle any disaster or spill of over 2,000 tons, along the shores. India's western coastline is equipped with Tier-I and Tier-II facilities - to handle pollution or oil spills up to 2,000 tonnes. But for spills above that limit, Coast Guard and the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) are relying on resource pooling and coordinated efforts with international maritime bodies. The Coast Guard team will also procure oil spill dispersants and set up a contingency plan. Yet, port officials fear Tier-III would not be enough. "Population growth has doubled along the coastline in the last five years; 80% of pollution in the sea is land-based," said a JNPT maritime department official. Read more at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Coast-Guard-vehicle-to-clean-sea/articleshow/5113549.cms>

### **INDIA: US FIRM TO PUMP OUT OIL FROM SUNK SHIP**

Paradip Port Trust authorities on Friday said they had selected a US company to pump out oil from Mongolian vessel *Black Rose*, which sank on September 9. PPT chairman K Raghuramiah said the Florida-based Resolve Marine Group was shortlisted for the task after studying four tenders. "Two Indian and two foreign companies had filed tenders to pump out the oil. But we decided to entrust job to the Florida company because of their vast experience in salvaging fuel from sunken ships," he said. "Paradip Port Trust will spend about Rs 17.5 to pump out oil from the sunken ship," Raghuramiah said. "The work will be completed within 10 days. We shall provide the drawings of the location of fuel tanks, vent pipes and sounding pipes," he added.

Earlier, PPT officials refused to pump out the oil from the sunken ship by claiming that it is not the responsibility of the port to pump out oils as the ship sank off in the sea not within the port area. "As per the Merchant Shipping Act, port authorities are not responsible for sinking of a ship beyond the harbour area. But PPT decided to pump out 975 tonnes of furnace oil and diesel to prevent oil spill," Raghuramiah said. The sunken ship has 924.4 tonnes of furnace oils and 48 tonnes of diesel. Fear of fuel oil spill from the sunken ship is the prime concern as the sunken ship area in the Bay of Bengal is situated near the Gahiramatha marine sanctuary, the world's largest rookery of the Olive Ridley turtles. [Thanks to Don Johnston of DG & Hazmat Group] <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/US-firm-to-pump-out-oil-from-sunk-ship/articleshow/5107495.cms>

## SESMEKE RESPONDS TO HIGHLY TOXIC RELEASE IN TURKEY



Following a handling accident in a Turkish port, SESMEKE was mobilised in response to two leaking containers. One container contained Diresul, a liquid sulphur dye and the other Toluene diisocyanate (TDI), a very toxic chemical used for the production of flexible polyurethane foam, special varnish and adhesives. TDI can react with water and the humidity in the air to form Hydrogen Cyanide; hence, extreme care was needed in the operation.

SESMEKE mobilised its specialized HAZMAT response van and responders from its Ceyhan base and was supported by HAZMAT response colleagues from SESME in the Middle East. Following the tool box brief, site set-up, hazard area demarcation and medical checks, the initial entry team was sent in with Level A protection to do an inspection of the container.

The container was very badly damaged and the doors had to be removed using cutting gear. A forklift was used to remove the first of the 80 x 225 litre drums to allow further damage assessment. Following an evaluation of the risk, Level C protection was adopted for much of the operations. However, a Level A team was re-deployed to use sorbents and collect TDI that was leaking and was at risk of contacting water.

The operation was successfully completed on time without any injuries or unexpected release of product. <http://www.sesmeke.com/>

## CANADA: POL E MAR APPOINTED SLICKBAR / CCI REPRESENTATION



In the picture: Tony Strange, CCI Director, John McKim, General Manager Pol E Mar, John Dicks, New Foundland / New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island Regional Manager, Pol E Mar, Dan Beyer, Sales Manager & Mike Hebb, Nova Scotia/Ontario/Quebec, Regional Manager, Pol E Mar

Pol E Mar has been a leading resource for oil & chemical containment & recovery, marine asset protection, environmental protection systems to the marine, energy & industrial sectors across Canada since 1990. They continue to represent Lamor and are a welcome addition to the Slickbar

family. [http://www.slickbar.com/Images/Slicknews3rdqtr2009/3rdQtr10\\_1\\_09.pdf](http://www.slickbar.com/Images/Slicknews3rdqtr2009/3rdQtr10_1_09.pdf)

## USA: PATENTED ABSORBENT MAT USES BACTERIA TO CLEAN UP MESSSES

Bruce Lind has invented and patented an absorbent matting, Eco Mat Eats Oil, which sandwiches oil-eating bacteria between two layers of fabric made from recycled cotton fibers. The matting encases a quantity of corn meal that contains the microbes. Water activates the bacteria, which eventually devour oil, grease or other petroleum-based chemicals the mat is applied to, Lind said. Read more at: [http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/101109/bus\\_503124054.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/101109/bus_503124054.shtml)

[Note from editor - I don't think the concept of an absorbent that incorporates oil eating bacteria is new – I have come across products of this kind before]

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.