

# GUANGZHOU STATEMENT

## FIRST ARF WORKSHOP ON DOMESTIC FERRY SAFETY

Guangzhou, China 12-13 December 2017

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the crucial role of domestic ferry operations in the movement of people and goods between islands, along the coast and inland waterways and riverine systems;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** further that the safety of domestic ferries is a shared responsibility between and among Governments; shipowners, ship managers, ship-operators; shipboard personnel; maritime education and training institutions; classification societies; and the public and civil society as user of the services provided;

**NOTING** that maritime casualty accidents involving domestic ferries continue to occur notwithstanding the initiatives of governments and organizations to improve the safety of domestic ferry operations;

**NOTING** further the initiatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through the formulation of various Action Plans in Bali, Suva and Nanjing and the development of guideline under the Manila Statement relating to domestic ferry safety;

**APPRECIATING** the universal application of SOLAS Convention and the value of application of similar standards to domestic ferries;

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of technical cooperation, transparency, sharing of information and the best practices of countries on domestic ferry safety regulation, management and operations, as appropriate;

**RECOGNIZING** further the value of maintaining maritime accident database and analysis of casualty investigation results in the development of safety measures and training of seafarers to prevent recurrence of similar maritime accidents;

WE, the participants at the First ARF Workshop on Domestic Ferry Safety, held in Guangzhou, China from 12 to 13 December 2017;

A. Agreed to ENCOURAGE the governments to:

1. develop or continue to implement, as appropriate, coherent and fit for purpose regulations which are easy to understand, practicable and enforceable for domestic ferry safety;
2. review and update existing laws and/or regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures, on a regular basis, to keep up with technological advancements in port facilities, ship design and construction, and onboard safety equipment such as lifesaving appliance, firefighting equipment, and navigational and communication systems;
3. adequately implement and enforce regulations through a mechanism which upholds transparency, accountability and trust both for the competent authorities and the shipowner / operator;
4. develop training and capacity building programs for its administrative, management and technical personnel;

B. Agreed to ENCOURAGE the industry to:

5. develop and implement a safety management system for shipping companies;
6. maintain the proficiency of ship officers and crew;

7. seek better technical solutions for the design and construction of ferries;
8. provide feedback mechanism;

C. Agreed to ENCOURAGE the government and the stakeholders to promote cooperation on the following areas, among others:

9. facilitate networking on domestic ferry safety for purposes of conducting regional forum, sharing of information & best practices, as appropriate;
10. promote a safety culture through an aggressive information drive on the importance of safety including compliance by all concerned with safety laws and regulations; and,
11. identify other areas of technical cooperation.

Agreed, this thirteenth day of December Two Thousand and Seventeen, in Guangzhou, China.