

Concept Paper

Proposed 2nd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety

China proposes to hold 2nd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety.

Background

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 has been well acknowledged. However, maritime casualty accidents involving domestic ferries continue to occur, especially in Asia-Pacific, notwithstanding the initiatives of governments and organizations to improve the safety of domestic ferry operations. According to a conservative statistics based on news reports of ferry accidents by Worldwide Ferry Safety Association, 21,574 lives were lost, 1,541 deaths per year over the 14-year period from 2000 to 2014, while around 70% of the accidents and fatalities were happen in Asian, and over 50% were related to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and China.

At the 24th ARF Ministerial Meeting, the Philippines and China gained approval to a concept paper to conduct of the Workshop on Ferry Safety that was in Guangzhou, China, 12-13 December 2017 to address this ferry safety. It was co-chaired by the host nation, represented by the Philippines' Maritime Industry Authority and China Maritime Safety Administration. The Workshop was attended by over 100 participants from 13 ARF members. A statement on ferry safety namely "Guangzhou Statement" (refer to the attached file) was drafted and issued during the workshop and future areas for cooperation were suggested and proposed by relevant parties.

In order to share experiences, best-practices, lessons-learned in aspect of the management of the domestic ferry by ARF members, so as to achieve the goal of enhancement of safety management expertise of domestic ferry and decrease the casualty and property loss raised by ferry accidents, China proposed to hold 2nd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety.

Proposal:

It is proposed to convene a two and half days ARF workshop on Ferry Safety, for implementation in the 2018/2019 inter sessional year, which is anticipated to be held in Guangdong, China.

The workshop is intended to be a follow up action to "Guangzhou Statement", to provide a platform to share best-practices, experiences, difficulties and solutions related to ferry safety management, enhance capacity building on enforcing applicable rules, promote use of fit-for-purpose vessels, encourage safety culture, strengthen cooperation on ferry safety within ARF framework.

Specific Workshop Goals/Topics

Based on the ASEAN Regional Forum work plan and other efforts achieved, the workshop will keep focusing on the following topics:

1. Identifying the root cause lead to accidents and casualties, such as human error,

weather, fire, not-fit-for-purpose ferry, etc.

2. Analyzing different parties' responsibility, such as Government departments, Local government, Non-government organization, Ferry survey organization, Ferry Company, Ferry crew, Passenger, etc.

3. Recognizing the bad practices, such as poor enforcement of rule (Government), overcrowding (Ship and Passenger), inappropriate vessel design and construction (Survey organization and Shipyard), bad maintenance on ferry (Crew and Ship Company), not-fit-for-purpose ferry and second-hand ferry management (Government, RO, Ship Company and Crew), etc.

4. Discussing new technology related, like AIS, new equipment or new material for life-saving and firefighting purpose, etc.

5. Formulating comprehensive and integrated management mechanism for ferry safety and establishing a platform for experience sharing and regional cooperation on ferry safety.

Co-chair

China is seeking an ASEAN co-chair(s).

Language, Venue, Date, Duration

Language: English

Location: Guangdong, China

Date: Second half, 2018

Duration: Two and half day

Participants

Participants in the workshop would be officials and practitioners from ARF members' maritime administrations. Moreover, relevant organizations such as ASEAN Secretariat, IMO, InterFerry and WFSA will be invited. Shipping industry, in light of the ferry safety responsibilities that fall on the industry, other stakeholders that related could also be invited, subject to ARF's agreement.

Administrative arrangements

China will host this workshop and bear the administrative costs of the workshop, including the venue, meeting preparations, travel costs for expert presenters, and working dinners and lunches. Participants will be responsible for their own international travel, accommodation, and other costs as appropriate.

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