

Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training – Counter Piracy (EAST-CP) Co-Chairs' Report

23 – 25 September 2013
Manila, Philippines

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 1st Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) held in Manila, Philippines, on 5 October 2012, the 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 20 November 2012, and the 25th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) held in Mandalay, Myanmar on 12 – 14 March 2013, the 1st Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training Counter Piracy (EAST-CP) Workshop and Seminar was held in Manila, Philippines on 23 – 25 September, hosted by the Philippines Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Department of Foreign Affairs, the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD), and Department of State.
2. The Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines Hon. Jejomar C. Binay and Maritime Industry Authority Administrator Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr. officially opened the workshop.
3. Participants from governments and educational institutions of all 18 EAS member countries participated in EAST-CP. Experts from the International Maritime Organization, International Maritime Bureau, the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Program (MPHRP), industry, medical field, and academia provided presentations at the workshop. The workshop also hosted presentations by three post-captivity seafarers and 29 maritime cadets from 6 countries. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.
4. The workshop produced the following recommendations for implementation in order to improve the training and support of seafarers against piracy.

Recommended Areas of Focus:

Training

- Seafarer's understanding of pirate culture and techniques
- Proactive development of scenarios to help train seafarers on what to expect in a piracy situation
- Hostage situation training on how to adapt/survive during times of captivity
- Development of modules in management-level courses on hostage situations
- Building of resilience of seafarers who can train others on how to be resilient
- Specialized training on how to stay physically and mentally fit
- Techniques to help seafarers stay in emotional control of a situation and develop self-awareness during difficult times
- Development of techniques to promote positive relations among crew/shipmates, and to break down the crew/officer barrier
- Development of seafarers who will implement necessary onboard rules and procedures
- Awareness of seafarer rights
- Development of seafarer personal family management skills and enhancing their spiritual quotient (both for the seafarer and his/her family)
- Education of family members

- Government cooperation with Ministry of Education/Transportation/NGOs on topics such as criminology, police and security, weapons training for cadets

Support

- Establishment of trusts to provide funding to support seafarers and their families, supported by governments, shipping companies, NGOs, and seafarers' unions
- Development of standard operating procedures for seafarers from high-risk countries in dealing with hostage situations
- Development of support mechanism from government, shipping companies, NGOs, etc.
- Preparing the seafarer with provision of relevant information at pre-departure, departure, and post-departure stages
- Development of a handbook for families in worst-case scenarios
- Monetary support and long-term support of victims' families

Recommended Action Items:

- Produce manual dedicated to psycho-social needs of seafarers impacted by piracy
- Training institutions develop course/training outcomes to increase resilience/emotional and physical well-being for cadets
- Transparency between NGOs/companies to include information regarding families
- Provide information to other countries on security training, pre-departure training, orientation to include piracy information, resiliency training, training focused on humanitarian aspects
- Countries should review support mechanisms for seafarers during and after the captives are released
- House of Representatives/Parliament should call for consultation meetings with government agencies and stakeholders to harmonize/formulate policies to help seafarers who experience traumatic incidents
- Dr. Harish Shetty stated that he would take personal responsibility to produce a manual on emotional first aid for families, with special emphasis on children of seafarers
- Recommend updating security training programs and manuals regularly, especially those on seafarers in captivity
- Encompass how to react in hostage situations into security training manuals
- More emphasis should be given to preventive piracy training, such as how to prevent the targeting of ships/boarding of ships
- Flag states should ensure that shipowners (operators) maintain appropriate insurance coverage for liabilities arising from piracy related risks, including medical care and treatment, injury, disability, death and repatriation. In the case of shipowner financial default or insolvency, the financial security provider(s) should come into play to remedy the situation. If they fail to do so, the flag state, port state and state of seafarers' nationality should take appropriate actions to remedy the situation.
- State of nationality of the seafarers should advise its respective nationals of the potential risks associated with signing on a ship that does not have appropriate insurance coverage for liabilities arising from piracy related risks
- Invite ILO representative to next workshop
- Immediate establishment of a trust supported by governments, shippers, NGO's. etc., to provide funds for Counter-Piracy efforts
- Strengthen funds and access to funds for directly supporting families of seafarers who are taken hostage

- Closer cooperation among agencies and schools to build capacity for cadets and all seafarers
 - Encourage governments to ratify and give full effect to the provisions of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006
 - International organizations and governments should pursue good maritime governance to resolve piracy
 - Recommend that MPHRP develop worst-case scenario handbook for families of seafarers
 - Designate a center for the testing and development of piracy scenario training center for maritime students
5. Progress associated with these recommendations will be reviewed next year at the 2nd EAST-CP Workshop and Seminar.
6. The workshop was officially concluded by United States Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas, Jr. and Philippine Secretary of Transportation and Communications Joseph Emilio Abaya.