



Outcome from the Inaugural meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum and the next steps

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FINLAND'S
CHAIRMANSHIP
2017-2019



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*Responsible traffic.
Courage and co-operation.*

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Attendance



- The Forum was attended by Arctic Council members, including Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers, and also by a wide spectrum of stakeholders with an interest in Arctic shipping.
- Industry has played a key role in shaping the Forum, with significant input from maritime organizations and insurers, including Lloyd's of London, and Lloyd's Register.
- Many other significant industry representative bodies were present including e.g. ICS, and national Shipowners' Associations, and other representative bodies such as IALA, the Nautical Institute and OCIMF.
- There were over 50 participants.
- Ms. Anne Berner, Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland and Ms. Monica Maeland, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway addressed the Forum by a video greeting underlining the importance of the Forum for the implementation of the Polar Code.



Attendance



- Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of the International Maritime Organization, gave an address emphasizing the importance of compiling information to assist in effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code.
- Mr. Brad Groves of Australia, Chair of the IMO MSC-committee also attended.
- The Forum is also collaborating with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Focus of discussions



- The Forum discussed the Forum's Terms of Reference at length.
- There was a discussion about what the Forum should focus on.
- The Forum concluded that best approach was to align the information required with the Polar Code requirements.
- The Polar Code focuses/requires inputs of information depending on what operation is taking place, and the FORUM seeks to assist in identifying recognized sources of information.
- These requirements are set out in the Terms of Reference of the Forum.
- The aim is to put information on a web portal to assist the users and decision makers which are:
 - Operators, Flag States, Port State Control, the insurance industry and financial institutions

Consensus Reached



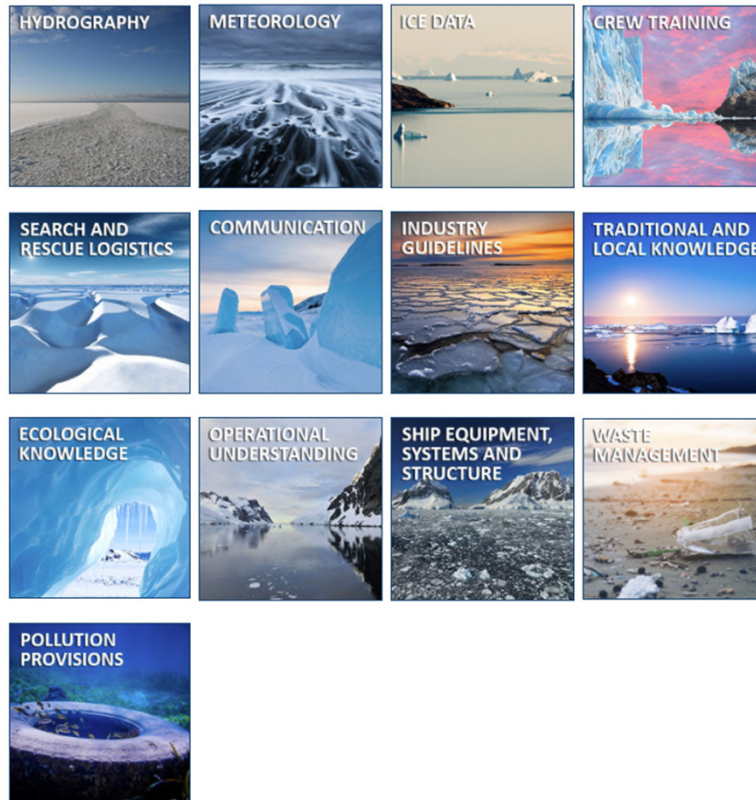
APPROACH OF IDENTIFYING AND COLLECTING INFORMATION

- Sources of data and methods of application are fundamental to safe and sustainable maritime operations.
- It must be from a recognized source and the Forum is developing guidelines for verifying the information.
- It is the responsibility of Members of the Forum to identify relevant information.

TYPES OF INFORMATION

- The Forum aims to point out sources of pertinent information that could potentially be used to improve ships performance in Arctic waters.
- The consensus on the types of information required is that there is a direct link to the Polar Code requirements i.e.
- The Forum aims to collect authoritative information that is strictly relevant in the implementation of and in compliance with the Polar Code.
- The Web portal is being developed with this approach/accordingly as follows:

Forum Topics on Arctic Council´s PAME website



- Hydrography
- Meteorology
- Ice Data
- Crew Training
- Search & Rescue
- Communication Requirements
- Industry Guidelines
- Traditional & Local Knowledge
- Ecological Knowledge
- Operational Understanding
- Ship Equipment, Systems & Structure
- Waste Management
- Pollution Provisions

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Next steps: intersessional work



- Terms of reference, and rules of procedures and the communication Strategy are being finalized and Members have been invited to comment by 30th June.
- The Chair, co-chairs and the PAME secretariat will circulate and invite input from the Members of the revised version of the proposed eligibility criteria for relevant information by 31 August.
- The summary of the meeting will be circulated by the Chair, co-chairs and the PAME secretariat.
- The Forum agreed that the next meeting is likely to take place back to back with either MEPC72 09.-13.4.2018 or MSC99 16.-25.5. 2018



Summary



- The inaugural meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum was an important milestone in identifying and gathering information to support safe and environmentally responsible Arctic shipping.
- The Forum is a demonstration of what can be achieved when industry, Governments, International Regulators, the Research Community, the indigenous community, and international organizations work together (encouraging public-private partnership).
- Overall the inaugural meeting of the Forum was a Positive meeting and everyone left with a great sense of purpose.
- When Director Mahapatra of the IMO kindly addressed the Forum he indicated that the Forum is a template to be used elsewhere in the world.
- Finland on behalf of the Arctic States would like to thank the IMO for their great support and also everyone involved.

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