



International Oil Pollution  
Compensation Funds

<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	IOPC/NOV23/7/3	
<b>Date</b>	13 October 2023	
<b>Original</b>	English	
<b>1992 Fund Assembly</b>	92A28	●
<b>1992 Fund Executive Committee</b>	92EC81	
<b>Supplementary Fund Assembly</b>	SA20	●

## SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES

### Note by the Secretariat

<b>Summary:</b>	This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2022 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2024.
<b>Action to be taken:</b>	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u>  Information to be noted.

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of its commitment to regularly actively engage with its Member States, enhancing their preparedness for any major oil pollution incident and increasing general awareness of the international liability and compensation regime, the Secretariat continues to organise and contribute to international conferences, exhibitions, national and regional workshops and other training events. This includes the delivery of a number of remote activities.
- 1.2 This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2022 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it plans to offer to Member States in 2024.

### 2 Workshops and webinars delivered

- 2.1 Since the October 2022 sessions of the governing bodies, the Secretariat has continued to collaborate with and support activities organised under the umbrella of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) or by other organisations with whom the IOPC Funds work closely. This included a four-day bi-annual regional GI WACAF<sup><1></sup> conference on spill preparedness and response in Ghana; a regional workshop in Singapore on incident and cost recovery, organised by the GI SEA Project<sup><2></sup>; and the Regional Meeting of Directors/Heads of Maritime Administrations (DIHMAR) of the Caribbean, which was held in Antigua and Barbuda. The Secretariat also contributed to a claims management workshop in Portugal organised by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and a workshop organised by ITOPI for the Dirección General de Capitanías y Guardacostas (DICAPI) in Peru.

<1> The Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF Project) is a collaboration between IMO and IPIECA to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

<2> The GI SEA Project is aimed at improving the level of oil spill preparedness and response capability in Southeast Asia.

- 2.2 The IOPC Funds was also pleased to be approached directly to organise a number of customised training activities. These activities included an oil spill response training event in Morocco initiated by the oil industry, and two short courses on claims and compensation for different key Government Departments, in response to invitations from New Zealand.
- 2.3 The Secretariat has also contributed to a number of webinars since the October 2022 sessions of the governing bodies, including events organised by the Maritime Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam, the Maritime Authority of Colombia (DIMAR) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). It also participated in two webinars for the Philippines. The first was co-organised by EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace Philippines, Oceana Philippines and the International Pollutants Elimination Network-Southeast and East Asia. The second, organised by the Philippine Coast Guard as part of its 122nd anniversary celebration specifically focused on claims for compensation and incident management in connection with the *Princess Empress* incident.
- 2.4 The Secretariat continues to speak at international and regional conferences as part of its commitment to creating awareness and increasing knowledge of the role of the organisation. The IOPC Funds participated in Spillcon 2023, the oil spill conference and exhibition for the Asia-Pacific region which took place in Brisbane, Australia, from 11 to 15 September 2023. In addition to chairing and presenting at a conference session, the Secretariat conducted a well-received complimentary workshop in collaboration with the International Group of P&I Clubs (International Group) for Spillcon participants. Furthermore, the IOPC Funds co-hosted an exhibition stand with the International Group providing an opportunity for direct engagement with delegates.
- 2.5 The IOPC Funds also delivered a presentation at the 5th Adriatic Spill Conference and Exhibition, ADRIASPILLCON 2023 which took place in Opatija, Croatia and attended an Information Day in Paris, France organised by Cedre.
- 2.6 The Secretariat is pleased to have been able to once again host visits from universities and other educational institutions in 2023. It welcomed students from the University of Deusto, the Faculty of Nautical Studies of Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University College of Ghent and the Law Faculty of Ghent University. It also delivered online lectures for the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the University of the Philippines Law Center. The Director was also pleased to accept invitations from the World Maritime University in Sweden and the International Foundation of the Law of the Sea in Germany to lecture in-person on the subject of the international liability and compensation regime to maritime students, diplomats and law practitioners.
- 2.7 The IOPC Funds has further activities planned before the end of the year. The Japan Maritime Center has kindly invited the IOPC Funds to hold a joint seminar in October 2023 entitled 'The role of the IOPC Funds in the protection of the marine environment, now and in the future'. This will be open to participants attending in person or remotely, with interpretation provided in English and Japanese. Further information about this and other upcoming events can be found on the IOPC Funds' website.
- 2.8 The Secretariat welcomes requests from any Member States that may consider it useful to organise activities similar to those described above.

### **3 Annual Academy**

- 3.1 The IOPC Funds' Annual Academy (formerly known as the 'Short Course') was held in person in London during the week of 12 June 2023.

- 3.2 It was attended by participants from 15 Member States of the 1992 Fund, representing maritime administrations, environment or transport departments and others. Participants were provided with interactive and comprehensive training which covered all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime. The programme included presentations from various speakers, including those from the Secretariat and other supporting organisations such as IMO, the International Group of P&I Associations, INTERTANKO, ITOPI and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).
- 3.3 The participants spent time at the IOPC Funds' offices and took a tour of the IMO building. They also had the opportunity to visit the International Group, the West of England P&I Club and the Lloyd's of London building, courtesy of the International Group. Towards the latter part of the week, they engaged in a practical exercise to apply their knowledge and address challenges posed by a theoretical incident. They then proceeded to submit a claim for compensation based on their response to the incident.
- 3.4 The Academy provides an excellent opportunity for the Secretariat to deliver important training. It also allows the Secretariat to connect with delegates to IOPC Funds' meetings and government officials who have a responsibility in the areas of oil reporting and oil spill preparedness and response.
- 3.5 The dates for the 2024 Academy and the deadline for nomination by governments will be announced later in the year.

#### **4 Induction course**

- 4.1 The IOPC Funds ran an Induction Course for delegates of 1992 Fund Member States on 24 October 2022 at the Funds' headquarters in London.
- 4.2 This half-day training, which is held annually, immediately prior to the regular sessions of the governing bodies, is specifically aimed at providing meeting delegates with an insight into the functioning of the organisations and a better understanding of the interaction between a Member State and the IOPC Funds in the event of an oil spill. The course is open to all interested delegates; however, it is designed in particular to benefit those who are either new to the IOPC Funds or have little prior knowledge of the organisations.
- 4.3 Participants are introduced to the international liability and compensation regime, as well as the entire process from an incident first occurring to the first claim being paid. The course covers the role of the Member State's delegation in London and the assistance that can be provided by the IOPC Funds during and after the incident, including the dispatch of experts on the scene of the spill, the establishment of a local claims office and what to expect from court proceedings.
- 4.4 The 2022 course was full to capacity with 20 States represented. Members of the Secretariat from various departments contributed to the delivery of presentations and addressed the participants on the various areas of responsibility of the organisation. This included discussions on topics such as claims handling, assessment procedures, and the management of oil reports and contributions. Participants were also given a quick overview of what to expect as a new delegate to the IOPC Funds' meetings and the various tools and services available to them.
- 4.5 The 2023 course is set to take place the day before the opening of the November 2023 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies on 6 November 2023.
- 4.6 More information and details on how to register can be found in circular IOPC/2023/Circ.8.

## **5 Regional lunch meetings**

- 5.1 On 1 March 2023, the Director hosted an informal lunch meeting for the UK-based representatives of States from the European region at the IOPC Funds' offices. On 12 July 2023, he hosted a second such event for representatives of States from the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- 5.2 These events provide an excellent opportunity for all those attending to discuss and engage informally with members of the Secretariat about the work of the organisation and on various subjects, such as the management of incidents, the running of meetings of the governing bodies, the oil reporting and contributions system, and the status of the 2010 HNS Convention.
- 5.3 These events are always very useful and a valuable occasion to strengthen Member State engagement and promote the international regime. Further such meetings for other regions are planned for 2024.

## **6 Webinar series**

- 6.1 The theme for World Maritime Day 2023 focused on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). In recognition of this significant day and to increase awareness of the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution and the work of the IOPC Funds, the Secretariat announced the launch of a series of short webinars. These webinars will cover a wider range of topics, from the basic understanding of the Conventions to the financing of the system, the types of claims arising from tanker incidents, and the claims submission process.
- 6.2 The webinar series, initially delivered in English only, is open to any interested party. Participants may choose to attend the entire series or select specific webinars of particular interest to them. The full programme, which consists of 11 webinars divided into four modules, is available under the External Relations section of the IOPC Funds' website. Each webinar will consist of a short 15-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session.
- 6.3 The first session, titled 'Understanding the Conventions – An introduction to the regime' will take place on 18 October 2023. This introductory session is primarily aimed at those with limited prior knowledge of the organisation and the international liability and compensation regime.
- 6.4 To accommodate participants from various time zones, all sessions will be delivered at 10am and 4pm (UK time).

## **7 Director's considerations**

- 7.1 The Director is pleased to see regular direct engagement between the organisation and its Member States throughout this past year.
- 7.2 In addition to many of the activities described in the document, he has also had the honour to have been personally invited to meetings with the Governments of Thailand, India, Japan and Republic of Korea. During those visits he was delighted to be able to meet with key representatives and stakeholders and to discuss any specific issues or areas of interest with them directly. Furthermore, the Director was pleased to welcome a number of newly appointed representatives of Member States, fellow organisations and industry representatives to the IOPC Funds' offices in London for brief but valuable meetings during 2023. He would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that he remains available for such informal discussions with States.

- 7.3 States wishing to have this direct engagement are encouraged to contact the Secretariat and take advantage of the different training activities offered by the IOPC Funds. Given our shared interests, the Secretariat continues to work in close cooperation with IMO in particular, as well as the International Group and ITOPF. This collaboration involves coordinating participation in events and sharing information in respect of activities planned to assist States. The intention for 2024 is of course to continue that cooperation. The Secretariat aims to offer further joint activities, including national and regional workshops. Interested States are encouraged to contact the IOPC Funds' Secretariat directly or to discuss their training needs with the IMO Technical Cooperation Division.
- 7.4 The lessons learned from organising remote activities in recent years have been invaluable, and the Director strongly encourages more Member States to make use of this service, either through requesting customised individual events or through joining the new webinar series.
- 7.5 For further information, please contact the Secretariat on [externalrelations@iopcfunds.org](mailto:externalrelations@iopcfunds.org).

**8 Action to be taken**

1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly are invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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