



International Oil Pollution  
Compensation Funds

<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	IOPC/MAY23/7/2	
<b>Date</b>	3 May 2023	
<b>Original</b>	English	
<b>1992 Fund Assembly</b>	92AES27	●
<b>1992 Fund Executive Committee</b>	92EC80	
<b>Supplementary Fund Assembly</b>	SAES11	●

## 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 October 2022 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2023.
<b>Action to be taken:</b>	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u>  Information to be noted.

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In the event of an incident, a general understanding of the international liability and compensation regime and good lines of communication between the Secretariat and the affected State are essential. Contacts must be established and training should be carried out before a spill. This prepares State representatives by giving them a general understanding of the claims process and can help to ensure that the relevant Conventions are fully implemented and that obligations, in particular in respect of the submission of oil reports and payment of contributions, are fulfilled. The delivery of, or participation in, outreach and training activities with Member States is extremely useful in that regard and the Secretariat continues to provide such support upon request, as far as possible. It also offers a number of annual activities that are open to all Member States to apply for and attend.
- 1.2 At the October 2022 sessions of the governing bodies, the Secretariat reported that it had been pleased to be able to return to delivering and participating in a number of activities in person during 2022. However, given the experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increased acceptance of and demand for remote activities, it had also continued, where appropriate, the practice of organising or taking part in a large number of online events.
- 1.3 This practice of offering training activities and support in a variety of formats has been well received by Member States and the Secretariat has seen a further increase in demand for such events and other services in the first quarter of 2023. This document sets out details of the latest activities and services that the Secretariat is able to provide in 2023 and explains how Member States can access them.

### 2 Annual activities

#### 2.1 Annual Academy (formerly Short Course)

*What does the Academy cover?*

- 2.1.1 The IOPC Funds Annual Academy is a week-long training activity usually held in June in London, United Kingdom. The programme covers all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime in general, and includes interactive exercises which

allow participants to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The Academy is supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Group of P&I Associations (International Group), INTERTANKO, ITOPI and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). They each contribute to the programme by delivering presentations. Participants spend most of the week on site at the IMO building, but also spend one day visiting some other relevant locations in London.

*Who should apply and how?*

- 2.1.2 The Annual Academy is open to a limited number of participants from 1992 Fund Member States and the next event will be held in person in London between 12 – 16 June 2023. The deadline for receiving applications for this year's Academy is 12 May 2023. Further details, including the online application form can be found under the External Relations section of the website and circular: [IOPC/2023/Circ.3](#).

## 2.2 Induction Course

*What does the Course cover?*

- 2.2.1 The annual Induction Course is a half-day course which usually takes place in October or November in London, United Kingdom. It was developed following the success of the Annual Academy, and in response to a continued demand from Member States to hold training 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.

*Who should apply and how?*

- 2.2.2 The course is open to all interested meeting delegates, however, it is designed to particularly benefit those who are either new to the IOPC Funds or have little prior knowledge of the organisations. The next course will be held shortly before the November 2023 sessions, with the exact date and application process to be announced in July 2023.

## 2.3 Regional Lunch meetings

*What do the Regional Lunch meetings cover?*

- 2.3.1 The Director hosts informal lunch meetings with regional groups of London-based representatives from Member and non-Member States at the IOPC Funds' offices two to three times per year. These meetings provide an opportunity for representatives to learn more about the organisations and the role of Member States in an informal setting. Staff are at hand to provide information on the key areas of engagement with Member States, in particular with regard to: participation at meetings of the governing bodies; the oil reporting and contributions process; incidents and claims handling; and the status of the HNS Convention. The most recent event was held in February 2023 for representatives of the European region.

*Who should attend and how are they contacted?*

- 2.3.2 Invitations to the informal meetings are sent directly to a State's representative in London who has either recently attended a meeting of the IOPC Funds governing bodies, is a Permanent Representative to IMO or is the Ambassador/High Commissioner. The invitation is extended to other relevant colleagues with an interest in the work of the IOPC Funds. Member States are encouraged to keep the Secretariat informed of changes to any relevant post-holders in London or contact details to ensure that invitations are correctly addressed. The next regional lunch meeting is expected to be organised in July 2023.

2.4 NEW: IOPC Funds Webinar Series

*What does the Series cover?*

- 2.4.1 The Secretariat has developed a webinar series which is intended to cover all aspects of compensation for oil pollution in 15-minute 'bitesize' presentations, followed by 15 minutes of questions. It is structured in four modules, 11 webinars in total, including but not limited to: the basic understanding of the Conventions; the financing of the system; the types of claims that arise from tanker incidents; and the claims submission process. The final module will also look ahead to the 2010 HNS Convention. Details of the full programme and dates will be announced in due course, with the first module expected to commence in September 2023.

*Who should register and how?*

- 2.4.2 The Webinar Series will be open to any interested party and each webinar will be delivered at three different times to facilitate participation from various time zones. Some may find it worthwhile to attend the full series, others, may find it useful to attend only one specific module, depending on their particular areas of interest and level of knowledge. Registration for the first webinar is expected to open in August. The Secretariat will publish details of registration on the website and across its social media channels.

**3 Training and educational activities organised upon request**

- 3.1 The Secretariat regularly contributes to events organised by fellow organisations and stakeholders to create awareness and promote better understanding of the role of the IOPC Funds. It works in particular close collaboration with IMO, the International Group and ITOPF to coordinate participation in events and share information in respect of activities planned to assist States. It also attends national and regional workshops in person and runs online activities upon request for both Member and non-Member States directly.

- 3.2 Since the October 2022 sessions of the governing bodies, the Secretariat has participated in events organised by RAMOGEPol, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF Project), the IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for South East Asia (GI SEA Project), ITOPF, the International Group of P&I Associations, Cedre and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). It has also organised and delivered events directly with Member States, including short, targeted online training sessions for those State representatives working on specific areas of work relating to the IOPC Funds, such as oil reporting and contributions.

- 3.3 The Secretariat continues to speak at international conferences and host visits from universities and other educational institutions.

*Who should request such activities and how?*

- 3.4 The Secretariat welcomes requests from any Member State that may consider it useful to organise activities similar to those described above.

- 3.5 For online activities, States may wish to consider requesting separate sessions for different audiences. Representatives responsible for oil spill response could be offered general sessions covering the international liability and compensation regime in general and the role of the Member State in an incident. Separate specific training sessions could be delivered to representatives of government departments or national oil companies who are tasked with submitting oil reports. Such events can usually be organised within a month of the request being received.

- 3.6 For workshops or training events in person, to be held in the State concerned, consideration should be given, where appropriate, to organising a regional event with neighbouring States. Such events usually require a minimum of three-months' notice.
- 3.7 For either format of activity, States are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to discuss further using the email address [externalrelations@iopcfunds.org](mailto:externalrelations@iopcfunds.org). Alternatively, States can discuss their training needs with the IMO Technical Cooperation Division.

**4 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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