



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/NOV24/7/3	
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1992 Fund Assembly	92A29	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC83	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SA21	●

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2023 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2025.
Action to be taken:	<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 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 2023 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it plans to offer to Member States in 2025.

2 Workshops and webinars delivered

- 2.1 Since the November 2023 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.
- 2.2 This included providing an online presentation to members of the Croatian National Headquarters as part of the International Maritime Organization's Level 3 oil pollution preparedness and response training.
- 2.3 The IOPC Funds was also pleased to join the International Group of P&I Associations (International Group) and ITOPF in delivering a workshop on the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution damage in India and a claims and compensation workshop in Malaysia. The Secretariat delivered a further claims and compensation workshop in the Philippines, specifically related to the *Princess Empress* incident.

- 2.4 The Secretariat also participated in the 2024 RAMOGEPOL exercise in Italy. RAMOGEPOL is a regional emergency response plan set up by France, Italy, and Monaco to combat marine pollution accidents in the Mediterranean. The 2024 event included a simulation exercise at sea and onshore involving national maritime response agencies, the European Maritime Safety Agency, national and local authorities, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.
- 2.5 The Secretariat has also contributed to a number of webinars since the November 2023 sessions of the governing bodies, including events organised for the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., one of the largest oil companies in India and a significant contributor to the 1992 Fund, and for the Singapore Shipping Association. At the invitation of the Marine Department of Thailand, the Secretariat also delivered an online national workshop for government and oil company representatives responsible for the submission of oil reports and payment of contributions to the IOPC Funds.
- 2.6 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 Oil Spill India 2024, an international conference and exhibition which focuses on oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. The event takes place every two years and this year was held in New Delhi. In addition to participating in the inaugural session, speaking in panel sessions and presenting at a conference session, the Secretariat co-hosted an exhibition stand with the International Group providing an opportunity for direct engagement with delegates.
- 2.7 The IOPC Funds also hosted a group of cadets from École du Service Public de la Mer (ESPMER), a French public institution responsible for maritime training, at its London offices and attended an Information Day in Paris, France organised by Cedre.
- 2.8 The Secretariat is pleased to have been able to once again host visits from universities and other educational institutions in 2024. It welcomed students from the VIVES University of Applied Economic Sciences, University of Deusto, Queen Mary University of London, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University College of Ghent and the Law Faculty of Ghent University. It also delivered lectures for the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). The Director delivered a lecture on the IOPC Funds and the HNS Convention to participants of IMLI's course on Maritime Protection and Ocean Governance, and the Deputy Director/Head of Claims also delivered a presentation at IMLI's 35th Anniversary International Conference, on the theme 'Promoting the Implementation of IMO Objectives through Maritime Legislation', both events taking place in Malta. 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.
- 2.9 The IOPC Funds has further activities planned before the end of the year. In October, the Government of Ecuador has invited the Secretariat, along with the International Group and ITOPF to contribute to a two-day national online workshop focused on incident response and recovery of costs. In November, the Director will attend the 10th Regional Conference in Togo held within the framework of the GIWACAF project and the Secretariat will deliver training to the Irish Coast Guard the same month. Further information about upcoming events can be found on the [IOPC Funds' website](#).
- 2.10 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 was held in person in London during the week of 17 June 2024.

- 3.2 It was attended by participants from 17 Member States of the 1992 Fund, representing maritime administrations, environment or transport departments and others. Notably, five of these Member States participated in the Academy for the first time.
- 3.3 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 for ship-sourced oil pollution. The programme included presentations from various speakers from the Secretariat as well as from other organisations who kindly support the event and with whom the IOPC Funds work closely, namely IMO, the International Group, INTERTANKO, ITOPF and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).
- 3.4 The participants spent time at the IOPC Funds' offices and had a tour of the IMO building. They visited the International Group, the Britannia P&I Club and the Lloyd's of London building, which included a guided tour organised courtesy of the International Group. Towards the latter part of the week, they undertook practical exercises which allowed them to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The dates for the 2025 Academy and the deadline for nomination by governments will be announced early next year.

4 Induction course

- 4.1 The IOPC Funds ran an Induction Course for delegates of 1992 Fund Member States on 6 November 2023 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 a better understanding of the interaction between delegates and the IOPC Funds. 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 The 2023 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.
- 4.4 The 2024 course is set to take place the day before the opening of the November 2024 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies on 4 November 2024. A revised programme this year will provide an introduction to the organisation and will detail what to expect as a delegate to IOPC Funds' meetings, the types of decisions that are often requested and how to prepare for a meeting, including the tools available to support meeting delegates. In addition, the course will highlight the important role of a Member State representative in the various areas of work of the IOPC Funds outside of meetings.
- 4.5 More information and details on how to register can be found in 1992 Fund circular [IOPC/2024/Circ.5](#).

5 Regional lunch meetings

- 5.1 On 31 January 2024, the Director hosted an informal lunch meeting for the UK-based representatives of States from the Middle East and surrounding regions at the IOPC Funds' offices. On 17 July 2024, he hosted a second such event for representatives of African States.
- 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 2025.

6 Webinar series

- 6.1 In October 2023, the Secretariat launched a series of short webinars. Each webinar features a concise 15-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. The comprehensive programme includes 11 events covering a wide range of key topics. From the basic understanding of the Conventions to the financing of the system, the series also explores the various types of claims arising from tanker incidents and offers guidance on the claims submission process. Over the past 11 months, eight of these webinars have successfully brought together participants from diverse sectors. The ninth event is set to take place on 25 September and will focus on recovery of losses in the tourism and fishery industries, which are often deeply impacted following an oil pollution incident. Looking ahead, the final two sessions scheduled for early 2025 will address the 2010 HNS Convention, offering participants valuable insights into both the Convention itself and the HNS reporting system.
- 6.2 The webinar series has proven very popular, with many of the sessions receiving over 200 registrations and attracting participants from governments, industry, insurers, fellow maritime-related organisations, lawyers, oil spill response experts and more, representing a global audience. Further information, including the full programme for the current series, is available under the [External Relations section of the IOPC Funds' website](#). When the series comes to an end next year, the Secretariat will reflect and explore options for a potential second series, with either the same or a revised programme of webinars. It will also take the opportunity to consider whether it should look at alternative ways to deliver such short, focussed and accessible training.

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 this document, 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 2024. 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 2025 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 webinar series.
- 7.5 For further information, please contact the Secretariat on 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.
