



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/MAR20/7/1	
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1992 Fund Assembly	92AES24	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC74	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SAES8	●

INFORMATION SERVICES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	As part of its commitment to increasing awareness of the international liability and compensation regime and improving engagement with all Member States, the Secretariat has been exploring ways in which the organisation can widen its audience by creating information and training opportunities which are accessible remotely. This document sets out the options explored by the Secretariat and its planned activities for 2020 in that regard.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Two of the main information services provided by the Secretariat are the Funds' website (www.iopcfunds.org) and publications. Developments in respect of those services, as well as information on other projects undertaken throughout the year are reported at each regular session of the governing bodies.
- 1.2 As part of its commitment to increasing awareness of the international liability and compensation regime and improving engagement with all Member States, the Secretariat has been exploring ways in which the organisation can widen its audience by creating information and training opportunities which are accessible remotely.

2 Webinars

- 2.1 One of the options available to the organisation to provide training more widely is to organise a series of short webinars covering the key areas which form the bases of the IOPC Funds and the work of the organisations, such as claims handling or oil reporting and contributions. These webinars would be open to a limited number of participants at a time and would involve a single presenter from the Secretariat presenting via a weblink. Having signed up to join the webinar in advance, the audience would view the presentation and listen to the audio on their chosen device. They would be able to pose questions via their device which could be dealt with during the presentation, at the end during a dedicated question and answer session, or after the event via email.
- 2.2 The Funds already have the necessary equipment to comfortably run such a webinar and will inform Member States when plans for the first such presentation have been confirmed.

3 Streaming of group presentations

- 3.1 On occasions when presentations are delivered to a visiting group, such as university and other student visits, it would be possible to provide remote access to the event via a weblink. The set up would be similar to that described in paragraph 2.1, with some additional technical and equipment requirements.
- 3.2 While it would be possible to deliver this type of streaming fairly easily, to ensure it is delivered to a high standard, the Secretariat is reviewing costs and requirements, such as lighting and camera equipment before committing to streaming these events.

4 Providing remote access to the short course or induction course

- 4.1 Following requests by a number of Member States, the Secretariat has also explored the possibility of providing remote access to the IOPC Funds annual short course and the induction course. Both events are hosted in London.
- 4.2 For the short course, which is a week-long event, the location is important not only because it is the base of the Secretariat, but because it is also home to the other stakeholders who support the course by delivering presentations themselves or by organising external visits during the week to other relevant London-based premises and activities, without which the course would be a far less rich experience.
- 4.3 The short course is in its 10th year, it remains very popular and continues to be oversubscribed each time. It is true however, that the cost and time of travelling to the UK for this course may well prevent a number of State representatives from attending. However, given the external visits which take place on the Tuesday and the interactive practical exercise which takes place on the Friday of the course, it would only be possible to stream three of the five days of the course. In addition, taking into account the number of presenters each day, the risk of technical failure could be fairly high, which could prove quite disruptive to the in-house participants and unreliable for the remote participants. With this in mind, the Secretariat is of the view that it would not be practical to provide remote access to this course. Instead, it is exploring the possibility of running a second version of the course in an alternative location to facilitate the attendance of other States.
- 4.4 In order for such a course to meet the same standards as its London-based counterpart, it would need to include the same level and variety of content, presenters and activities. The Secretariat has therefore held initial discussions with the supporters of the London-based course to determine whether they would have resources available or contacts in other locations who would be willing to contribute to the course in an alternative location. The results of these initial discussions have been very positive and the Secretariat plans to continue to explore options with the hope of identifying a suitable location and date in due course.
- 4.5 With regard to the induction course, this is a half-day course designed specifically to prepare new delegates shortly before the IOPC Funds' meetings. Since it is for a much shorter duration than the short course, takes place in one location and involves internal speakers only, it could be an option to make the course accessible to remote users. However, one of the main beneficial points of both the short course and the induction course is the interactive aspect. Participants ask many questions throughout the courses and there are tabletop/practical exercises. The Secretariat will therefore look further into how it could ensure remote users would be able to benefit from the course in the same way as the local participants.
- 4.6 One option could be to develop short interactive online exercises that remote users could undertake, allowing them to share the same experience to those on site. These exercises could cover the topics of claims submission and oil reporting, could be developed for multiple training purposes and could be added as a new feature on the Funds' website.

5 Social media presence

The IOPC Funds have continued to actively use Twitter to post relevant news and information, provide key facts and figures relating to the liability and compensation regime and share interesting posts from fellow organisations and industry colleagues. This Twitter account greatly assists with the Secretariat's efforts to improve communication and increase awareness of the work of the organisation. To widen its reach further still and to keep aware of developments, the Secretariat has now also started to engage with followers on LinkedIn. Delegates to the Funds' meetings are therefore encouraged to follow the [@IOPCFunds](#) account on Twitter and the IOPC Funds page on LinkedIn.

6 Action to be taken**1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly**

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