

The IFC would like to share some of its activities in the first quarter of 2024, as well as its initiatives for the rest of the year.

### **45th SAM**



The IFC co-organised its 45th Shared Awareness Meeting on 29 Feb 24, in collaboration with both the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA). This marks the 3rd time all three entities have jointly organised SAM, with the resources and networks provided by ASA and SSA valuable in ensuring the success of the events.

The event attracted more than 200 participants who attended in-person and virtually across 12 countries, including our MARSEC partners from Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar, Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre (Thai-MECC) and Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean region (IFC-IOR).

Taking into account feedback from our shipping and MARSEC partners, the IFC selected a diverse range of topics that catered to participants' interests. These included MARSEC developments in IFC's Area of Interest by CAPT Zhu Jian, China International Liaison Officer from IFC; MARSEC updates in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea by CDR Eric Jaslin from MICA Centre; UKMTO's operating model and MARSEC updates in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden by LT Will Benbow from Royal Navy; and updates on Operation Prosperity Guardian by CAPT David Coles from Combined Task Force 153.

In addition to speakers from MARSEC agencies, we also invited subject matter experts from the maritime industry to address various topical issues. Mr. Thomas Timlen from Risk Intelligence

provided an introduction to Automatic Identification System (AIS) spoofing incidents and shared the best practices to enhance awareness. Following this, Mr. Dan Muller from Ambrey discussed the types of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) used in modern conflict. Lastly, Mr Chakib Abi Saab from Lloyd's Register discussed present and future AI adoption in MARSEC.

The event concluded with a networking session where maritime stakeholders connected with one another and engaged in valuable discussions.

### **Participation in 49th FASA AGM**



The IFC had the privilege of being invited to the 49th Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 6 March 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. The AGM was attended by delegations representing shipping associations from the ASEAN member countries and representatives from the Indonesian shipping community. The meeting also marked the start of the FASA chairmanship by the Indonesian National Shipowners' Association (INSA), led by Mdm Carmelita Hartono, for a two year tenure beginning this year.

The AGM tackled numerous maritime challenges concerning the global and regional shipping sector, including areas in marine navigation, environmental concerns, and maritime security. Of note, the IFC was invited to share on the MARSEC situation in key areas such as the Singapore Strait, Gulf of Aden (GoA), Gulf of Guinea (GoG), and the Red Sea. We were pleased to observe that participants appreciated the IFC's efforts to raise MARSEC awareness and provide operational support to the regional shipping community.

In total, the IFC had the opportunity to engage more than 60 participants, and establish new linkages with the various Indonesian shipowners / operators. These linkages allow us to expand

our outreach in info sharing, enabling IFC to maintain our value proposition as the leading regional MARSEC info sharing hub.

### **Initiatives for 2024**

The IFC has a range of initiatives planned for the shipping community in 2024. The IFC will co-host the 46th SAM with ASA and SSA on 25 July, dovetailing the 12th Regional MARSEC Practitioners Program (RMPP) from 22 to 26 July. The RMPP brings together professionals from navies, coast guards, maritime agencies and the shipping industry to exchange knowledge and perspectives on maritime security (MARSEC) issues. As in previous years, the IFC will extend invitations to our shipping partners to participate in these events.

After a successful first year, the IFC will invite our shipping partners to participate in the second Maritime Awareness Week Campaign in Aug 2024, aiming to encourage ships transiting Malacca Strait towards the Singapore Strait to implement shipboard protection measures. During the previous campaign, IFC reached out to more than 360 vessels from 185 companies, providing updates on the MARSEC situation and encouraging ships to forward photos of shipboard protection measures to the IFC.

Building on the success of our recent overseas trips, we will continue to pursue more trips to visit regional partners and participate in their maritime events to discuss MARSEC concerns. Of note, the IFC will continue to support regular meetings of FASA and ASA by providing regular MARSEC updates to the associations' leadership and their respective members.