

Latest development from The Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

IFC collaborates with ASA and SSA to enhance collaboration in raising industry's maritime security awareness

The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) recently collaborated with the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) in a series of activities in May, namely participating in the ASA Safe Navigation and Environment Committee (SNEC) meeting, hosting the Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) at the centre, the Shipping Leadership Programme (SLP), and the 8th Maritime Information Sharing Exercise (MARISX).

IFC's partnership with the shipping community is crucial in combating MARSEC threats as we play a pivotal role in facilitating communications and cue operational responses amongst all maritime stakeholders. IFC has always enjoyed a close working relationship with ASA and SSA, from co-chairing of the SSA Maritime Safety and Security sub-committee meetings to co-organising the Shared Awareness Meetings (SAM) and sharing of MARSEC updates with their members. The recent collaboration marks a significant milestone as this is the first time it was done and signifies a leap forward.

ASA SNEC meeting and JSA visit

The IFC gave a presentation on the regional MARSEC situation to the SNEC members during their meeting on 2 May 23, under the invitation of Ms. Caroline Yang, Chairman, and Mr. Michael Phoon, Secretary for SNEC. The MARSEC updates and recommendations on ship protection measures, particularly on the sea theft/robbery incidents in Singapore Strait which have increased in recent years, helped enhance understanding of the evolving maritime security landscape.

In addition, the IFC hosted a visit for Mr Keiji Tomoda, Vice President, and Mr Masayuki Ito, General Manager from JSA who flew into Singapore for the meeting, together with Mr Yuichi Sonoda, Secretary General and Mr Dylan Ow, Senior Manager from ASA. During the visit, IFC demonstrated efforts to support the industry and ensured the safety and security of vessels and crew members operating within IFC's Area of Interest. The delegation was impressed with how IFC's extensive linkages were instrumental in tackling MARSEC challenges and we had a fruitful exchange of ideas on how we can further strengthen collaboration.



2 - IFC hosted members from the ASA and JSA at the centre in Changi Naval Base.

Shipping Leadership Programme

Specially curated for IFC's shipping partners for the first time, IFC invited ASA, SSA and their members to attend the 13th International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) Asia. IMDEX Asia is a prominent naval and military defence event held from 3 to 5 May 23 and featured an exhibition, warship display, and the 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) which was co-organised by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

Our partners had the rare opportunity to attend IMSC which enabled them to better recognise and understand the geopolitical developments in the maritime domain as well as MARSEC threats ranging from maritime crimes to inter-state conflict. Distinguished maritime practitioners, academic, policy makers and other stakeholders shared perspectives on how the maritime community can work together to promote safe and secure seas. This year, IMSC also featured a special session to discuss the roles of coastguards and maritime law enforcement agencies.



3 - IFC's shipping partners attending the SLP.

8th Maritime Information Sharing Exercise

The 8th MARISX is a scenario-based exercise which enables IFC's international partners to exercise operational linkages, exchange best practices and enhance cooperation across IFC's MARSEC categories. Recognising the significance of collaboration among different stakeholders in addressing transnational and transboundary MARSEC challenges, the IFC expanded participation beyond navies and coastguards to encompass partners from the shipping community. Members from ASA and SSA were also able to observe how the scenarios were played out and had a comprehensive understanding of how IFC facilitates info-sharing and cue operational responses between the shipping community and various operation centres through the IFC International Liaison Officers (ILOs).



4 - Participants of the 8th MARISX.

We received positive feedback from the participants that the events allowed them to gain valuable insights and achieved better awareness of the MARSEC landscape. Looking ahead, the collective efforts of organisations like the IFC and industry stakeholders will continue to play a vital role in safeguarding our oceans. IFC will be conducting the 11th Regional MARSEC Practitioner Programme (RMPP) and 44th Shared Awareness Meeting (SAM) in July and will continue to invite the shipping community to attend. The exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices will contribute to a safer and more secure maritime environment for all.