

Main Title: Strengthening Maritime Security Collaboration

IFC's Inaugural Participation in the ASA AGM

The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) was invited to provide maritime security (MARSEC) updates on the Singapore Strait, Red Sea and Gulf of Guinea during the ASA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in May 2024. The presentation delivered key situational updates and the latest enforcement efforts, fostering discussions on how the industry can collaborate with the authorities to improve MARSEC.



Figure 1: LTC Daniel Ng, Deputy Hd IFC and Hd Shipping Engagement Branch, presenting the MARSEC updates during the joint ASA Safe Navigation and Environmental and Shipping Policy Committees meeting.

Expanding Our Network

During the AGM, the IFC engaged with new partners, including Shipowners' Associations from China, Korea, and Hong Kong, alongside members of the broader Hong Kong shipping community. The IFC also took the opportunity to visit five shipping companies with a significant footprint in the Hong Kong shipping industry. This allowed the IFC to share insights and collaborate with new partners on MARSEC issues, enhancing regional maritime safety and security efforts.



Figure 2: The IFC visited Pacific Basin, a Hong Kong based shipowner and operator of over 300 bulk carriers.

Involvement Beyond the Region

The IFC spoke at the inaugural Maritime Security and Cooperation (MSC) Forum, organised by the French Navy's Maritime Information Cooperation & Awareness (MICA) Centre in Brest, France on 27 Jun 2024. The MSC Forum comprised panels with speakers from the military and shipping industry, and well as participants from international organisations, seafarers, maritime practitioners and operational personnel.

The IFC spoke about the importance of building mutual trust and understanding with shipping industry both within and beyond our region, in order to strengthen our info-sharing processes. Strengthening interpersonal relationships, both at the operational and the leadership level, is also crucial in addressing maritime challenges and ensuring safe and secure seas.

The IFC also had the opportunity to meet and engage the shipping industry and establish new linkages with various French shipowners / operators. These linkages allow us to expand our networks, enabling IFC to maintain our value proposition as the leading regional MARSEC info sharing hub.

The forum was held in conjunction with the multinational naval cooperation and guidance for shipping Exercise Bell Buoy 2024, which IFC also participated in.



Figure 3: LTC Lester Yong, Head IFC, speaking at the Maritime Security and Cooperation Forum and taking part in a panel discussion. LTC Yong also met with the French shipping community during the Forum.

Looking Ahead: 46th Shared Awareness Meeting and 2nd Maritime Awareness Week Campaign

The IFC is excited to announce its next key events for the rest of the year. We will be co-organising the 46th Shared Awareness Meeting (SAM) with ASA and the Singapore Shipping Association. SAM is a half-day hybrid event where we invite subject matter experts to provide situational updates and recommendations for ships transiting

various areas of concern, along with insights on emerging maritime trends and technology.

We will also conduct our 2nd Maritime Awareness Week Campaign in August to reinforce the importance of adopting shipboard protection measures. The IFC will provide real-time MARSEC updates to all vessels participating in our Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) initiative.

We look forward to ASA's participation as we continue our collaborative efforts to promote safe and secure seas.