

## Latest developments from The Information Fusion Centre

### IFC facilitated actionable information sharing among various maritime stakeholders resulting in numerous operational successes

The strength of the IFC lies in its capability to cue operational responses due to its robust network and linkages with various maritime security (MARSEC) agencies, and in facilitating communication between the MARSEC agencies and the shipping community. Currently with 20 International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from 18 countries deployed to the IFC, the ILOs are responsible for exchanging information between IFC and their respective operation centres which makes information sharing more effective.

In the second half of 2022, IFC facilitated actionable information sharing with the relevant MARSEC authorities from Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in four rescue operations and a sea theft incident after receiving information from our partners. The well-established and timely info-sharing processes together with IFC's strong collaboration with the shipping industry and the relevant regional authorities contributed to the successes of the operations. More importantly, the presence of the ILOs enabled quick information exchanges and cuing of operational responses in the shortest time possible. They can be seen in the five case studies which are elaborated further.

### Medical emergency assistance request on onboard container vessel

On 29 Sep 22, the IFC received an urgent call for assistance for a medical emergency on board from the Company Security Officer (CSO) of Pacific International Lines via the IFC's Voluntary Reporting Community (VCR). The report was immediately shared with CDR Pongsakorn Puangsuwan, Thai ILO attached to IFC, and coordination was quickly established with the 3rd Royal Thai Naval Area Command of the Royal Thai Navy (RTN).

RTN ship Tor 233 was activated to meet up with the Singapore-flagged container vessel "KOTA RANCAK" to support the medical evacuation. The rescue operation was challenging as the naval vessel had to brave through stormy seas. In less than 24hrs, the patient on board "KOTA RANCAK" was safely evacuated, received prompt medical care from the rescue team and has fully recovered.



The Royal Thai Navy responded immediately to a request for assistance on a medical emergency on board “KOTA RANCAK”.

Photo credits: Pacific International Lines & Royal Thai Navy.

## Tanker rescued nine crew from floating raft

On 13 Oct 22, the IFC received a call from Capt Geoffrey Pearson, General Manager and Global Head of Fleet Security and Capt Perry, Company Security Officer of BW Group and BW LNG requesting for assistance. Their ship “BW Paris” had rescued nine Indonesians from a raft in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, of which one was recovered unconscious.

The IFC immediately shared the information with the relevant authorities through LCDR Amar, Indonesian ILO deployed in IFC. Within a short period of time, LCDR Amar coordinated with the Indonesian Navy and BASARNAS SAR Centre, and IFC linked them up with BW Group and BW LNG to safely transfer all the rescued personnel to an Indonesian patrol warship within nine hours.



The Indonesian authorities deployed their ship and transferred the rescued personnel from “BW Paris” upon receiving information from the IFC.

Photo credits: BW Group & the Indonesian Navy.

## Car Carrier successfully rescued 303 migrants

On 7 Nov 22, Canada ILO, LTC Greg Nette informed IFC of a distress call from a fishing vessel (Lady R3) that was carrying more than 300 migrants in the South China Sea. The IFC, through the ILOs, immediately shared the information with the respective operation centres and shipping partners to locate Lady R3 and support the SAR efforts. The initial details were scanty and as more information came in from various sources throughout the day, the IFC set out to corroborate the facts so that share useful information is shared with partners to cue operational responses. Of note, Vietnamese ILO, LCDR Hoang Cong Linh shared the information with his Navy OPCEN, triggering the Vietnam People's Navy decision to promptly deploy "VPN ship 471" and "VPN ship 640" to support the SAR operation.

Meanwhile, MV Helios Leader, a pure car carrier managed by NYK Ship Management Pte Ltd, also received a GMDSS broadcast by the Singapore Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre on the distress call and responded immediately, providing prompt assistance to the migrants. MV Helios Leader picked up a total of 303 migrants from fishing vessel Lady R3 and brought them to Vung Tau Port, Vietnam where the migrants were handed over to the local authorities. Our partners from NYK Ship Management Pte Ltd and the Vietnamese authorities confirmed that all 303 migrants were safe and accounted for.



NYK Ship Management picked up 303 migrants from a fishing vessel and handed them over to the Vietnamese authorities.

Photo credits: Vietnam People's Navy & NYK Ship Management Pte Ltd

## Bulk carrier responded to IFC VCR and rescued 7 crew from sinking vessel

On 21 Nov 22, the IFC received information from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) HQ via CDR Angela Salih Naval, the PCG ILO that a wooden motorised vessel encountered engine failure and was drifting off Balut Island, Philippines with seven crew on board.

The IFC managed to establish communication with the stranded vessel and immediately reach out to the nearest vessel in the vicinity through the IFC VCR to request for assistance. The Japanese-flagged bulk carrier “SHINRYO MARU” agreed to render assistance to the vessel and successfully rescued all crew before the wooden vessel completely sunk into the sea. Subsequently the crew were transferred to a Philippines naval vessel safely.



“SHINRYO MARU” successfully rescued and transferred seven crew to the Philippines authorities.

Photo credits: SHINRYO MARU

## Indonesian authorities successful arrest of seven perpetrators in a sea theft incident

On 3 Nov 22, a tug and barge while transiting along the Eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait reported to Singapore’s Vessel Traffic Information System that perpetrators had boarded its barge to steal scrap metal. The IFC immediately info-shared with LCDR Amar, the Indonesian ILO, who immediately relayed the information to the Indonesian Navy operation centre. They worked together with the Indonesian Marine Police, who deployed their vessels to the incident location for investigation. The perpetrators on board the barge tried to flee when they saw the enforcement vessels however seven of them were arrested and brought back by the local authorities for further investigation.





The Indonesian authorities captured the perpetrators who were stealing scrap metal from the barge.

Photo Credits: Indonesian Navy & Indonesian Marine Police

It is through the collaboration efforts between the IFC, shipping community and the MARSEC agencies that contributed to the successes for these incidents.