

Main Title: IFC's Efforts to foster Maritime Security Collaboration

During the third quarter (July-September), the IFC was involved in a series of events and initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the maritime security (MARSEC) landscape and addressing key issues in the shipping industry. The following provides an overview of these activities:

12th Regional MARSEC Practitioner Programme (RMPP)

In collaboration with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the IFC co-organised the 12th Regional MARSEC Practitioner Programme (RMPP) from 22 to 26 July 2024, held at RSS Singapura – Changi Naval Base. The event brought together approximately 140 participants from 36 countries, comprising partners from enforcement agencies and the shipping industry, including ASA members, to exchange professional knowledge and perspectives on MARSEC issues.



Figure 1: (From left to right) Panel discussion with Prof Christian Bueger from the University of Copenhagen; Mr Andrew Clarke from International Maritime Organisation; and Dr Trung Nguyen, Centre for International Law.

Renowned academics and subject matter experts presented on critical topics such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, emerging MARSEC threats and trends like maritime cybersecurity and dark shipping. For the first time, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) sent an SME to participate and speak; Mr Andrew Clarke shared IMO's perspectives on MARSEC challenges, and also ongoing capacity building initiatives for its partners. Participants also engaged in focused group discussions,

where they exchanged experiences and best practices, facilitating opportunities for mutual learning.



Figure 2: Participants in the visit to office of Pacific International Lines (PIL)

RMPP participants had the unique opportunity to visit the Singapore Police Coast Guard Headquarters and the Singapore Maritime Gallery, which gave them a better understanding of Singapore's Whole-of-Government approach to MARSEC. They also visited IFC's close partner, Pacific International Lines (PIL), and toured the X-Tron, Singapore's first fully electric port passenger vessel, offering a glimpse into the country's journey toward green shipping.



Figure 3: (From left to right) Senior Commanders' Dialogue with Ms Jane Chan (moderator); Commander Logistics Group Western Pacific from the United States Navy, RDML Mark Melson; Director Maritime Crime Investigation Department from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency FADM Ahmad Faridi bin Ferdaus; and Commander MARSEC Command from the Republic of Singapore Navy, COL Ng Xun Xi.

The programme's highlight was the Senior Commanders' Dialogue, as distinguished panellists engaged in an open discussion on the key MARSEC challenges encountered during their operational tours and shared strategies for mitigating these threats.

46th Shared Awareness Meeting (SAM)



Figure 4: Participants at the 46th SAM

Co-organised by IFC, ASA and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) on 25 Jul 2024, the 46th SAM brought together over 250 participants from enforcement agencies and the wider shipping community, including ASA members, marking the event's largest physical turnout to date.



Figure 5: CAPT Lee Stuart sharing on the MARSEC situation in Gulf of Aden/Red Sea

The 46th SAM featured presentations on the MARSEC situation in various regions: LCDR Michael Booth, Australia International Liaison Officer, presented IFC's mid-year MARSEC report in our Area of Interest; CDR Eric Jaslin from MICA Centre briefed on the Gulf of Guinea situation; and CAPT Lee Stuart from JMIC, who flew in specially from Bahrain, shared on the latest development in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea.

Speakers from the shipping industry, such as RADM Jacques Rivière from CMA CGM, shared industry perspectives on best practices in the Red Sea, while Mr. Jay Poh from ST Engineering provided insights on the role of Unmanned Surface Vehicles in MARSEC.

The SAM continues to be a useful platform for all maritime stakeholders to hear directly from SMEs and engage each other, keeping the community tight.

Maritime Awareness Week Campaign

The IFC successfully conducted its second Maritime Awareness Week campaign from 19 to 23 Aug 2024 to promote information sharing amongst all maritime stakeholders and reinforce the importance of adopting shipboard protection measures when transiting the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS).

With the support of ASA and other shipping partners, the IFC reached out to more than 300 ships, providing MARSEC updates and reminders for them to implement necessary security measures. Many ships welcomed the IFC's efforts, and openly shared the measures (see photos in Figure 6) they implemented while transiting SOMS to deter unauthorised boarding, which went beyond measures recommended by the IFC, and included additional ones such as reinforcing hatches and doors and deploying fire hoses along the deck.



Figure 6: Examples of shipboard measures adopted by ships while out at sea

Many shipowners and operators expressed their appreciation for the IFC's Maritime Awareness Week campaign, highlighting how the initiative helped enhance crew awareness and strengthened onboard security. The IFC is heartened by the positive feedback; we remain committed to conduct the campaign annually, increasing the scale and value over time.

Involvement Beyond the Region - 3rd Indo-Pacific Security Conference (IPSC)

The IFC participated in the IPSC in Hamburg, Germany from 3 to 4 Sep 2024, hosted by the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK), the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, the German Maritime Institute, and the German Institute for Security and Defence. The IPSC saw about 150 participants, comprising experts and practitioners from the MARSEC domain, as well as diplomats, military officers and academia internationally, join in the panel discussions during the conference. The IPSC aimed to shed light on Europe's priorities and MARSEC challenges in both its immediate region and Asia Pacific.

Head IFC, SLTC Lester Yong, spoke as a panellist and shared how information sharing was critical in identifying irregular behaviours and new MARSEC threats. Head IFC explained that use of advanced technology should be complemented with strong info-sharing networks comprising SMEs and community members who were able to provide contextual information and insights so that we can better understand the issues at hand, and develop effective measures to combat the threats.





Figure 7: SLTC Lester Yong, Head IFC, speaking at the 3rd Indo-Pacific Security Conference (3-4 Sep 2024) and taking part in a panel discussion.

Looking Ahead: Upcoming Initiatives

The IFC will continue to be active in the maritime space and participate in several local and overseas conferences in the upcoming quarter. These include an online seminar co-organised by the ASA Shipping Policy Committee (SPC) and the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), aimed at fostering industry dialogue on combating maritime corruption in seaports and terminals, as well as exploring ways to enhance integrity within maritime supply chains. Additionally, IFC will take part in the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) Asia Pacific Regional Brief, marking our first engagement with the offshore industry. With our MARSEC partners, the IFC plans to participate in the annual Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre and Trans Regional Maritime Network Experts' Annual Meeting organised by the Italian Navy in Nov 2024, and the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) meeting in Dec 2024. Through these efforts, the IFC hopes to strengthen cooperation with our partners; together we can ensure Safe and Secure Seas for All.