



COUNCIL
90th session
Agenda item 29(a)

C 90/29(a)
7 March 2003
Original: ENGLISH

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Applications for consultative status

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document transmits one application for consultative status and reports on the recommendation made by the 76th session of the MSC on the application for consultative status from the International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA-Interferry). It also transmits a communication from ICHCA International Limited regarding its new name.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: C 89/26/Add.1, MSC 76/23 and MEPC 48/21

New application for consultative status

International Maritime Health Association (IMHA)

1 Since the eighty-eighth session of the Council in June 2002, the Secretary-General has received an application for consultative status from the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA).

2 The relevant documentation and information provided by IMHA in support of its application is reproduced in an annex to this document.

Previous application considered by the Council

International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA-Interferry)

3 As indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of document C 89/26, the Council has yet to complete its consideration of the application for consultative status from the International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA-Interferry), which had been referred to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) for advice.

4 The Council at its eighty-ninth session had before it the views of the MEPC at its forty-eighth session. The MEPC recommended to the Council that consultative status be granted to IMTA-Interferry on a provisional basis (see document C 89/26/Add.1, paragraphs 1 to 4).

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5 At the seventy-sixth session of the MSC, which met after the eighty-ninth session of the Council, the Committee considered the application for consultative status from IMTA-Interferry. The MSC noted the recommendation made by MEPC 48 (MSC 76/2/2, paragraph 23) that consultative status should be granted to that organization on a provisional basis and, concurring with the decision of MEPC 48, recommended to the Council that consultative status should be granted to IMTA-Interferry on a provisional basis.

6 In the light of the recommendations from the MSC and the MEPC, the Council may now wish to take a decision on the application from IMTA-Interferry.

ICHCA International Limited

7 The Secretary-General has received a communication from the Director of ICHCA International Limited advising IMO of the decision of ICHCA's Council meeting of 14 April 2002 to become incorporated. The change of name from the International Cargo Handling Coordination Association (ICHCA) to ICHCA International Limited, which was a consequence of this incorporation, takes effect from 1 January 2003.

Action requested of the Council

8 The Council is invited to establish a small group of Council Members to screen the new application for consultative status referred to in paragraph 1 above, and to decide on it in the light of the recommendation of the small group. The Council is also invited to note the recommendations of the MSC and the MEPC on the application from IMTA-Interferry and to take a decision as it may deem appropriate. The Council is further invited to note the new name of ICHCA International Limited.

ANNEX

IMO QUESTIONNAIRE

1. **Name of the organization :**
Nom de l'organisation :

International Maritime Health Association (*I.M.H.A.*)

2. **Address of Headquarters :**
Adresse du Siège :

International Maritime Health Association
Italiëlei 51
B-2000 ANTWERPEN
BELGIUM

Tel : +32 3 229.07.76
Fax : +32 3 225.20.38
E-mail : IMHA@online.be
Internet : <http://www.imha.net>

3. **Addresses of all branch or regional headquarters :**
Adresses de tous les sièges locaux ou régionaux :

There are presently no branches or regional headquarters. However, addresses of our 7 boardmembers are listed below :

Dr. Verbist Robert
President
Mediport
Italiëlei 51
2000 ANTWERPEN
BELGIUM

Dr. M. Luisa Canals
Vice-President
Santa Joaquina Vedruna 5, esc 3-2-2
43002 Tarragona
SPAIN

Dr. Saarni Heikki
Secretary
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
Hämeenkatu 10
20500 Turku
FINLAND

Dr. Tim Carter
Board Member
Room 2/09 Department for Transport
76 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DR
UK

Dr. Eilif Dahl
Board Member
Professor Dahls gt. 50 A
N-0260 OSLO
NORWAY

Dr. Mohammad Walid Y. Daoud Khalil
Board Member
P.O. Box 9416 Salmiyah
22095 KUWAIT

Dr. Pedro De Guzman
Board Member
Physicians Diagnostic Services Centre
533 United Nations Avenue
St. Ermita
MANILA 1000
PHILIPPINES

4. **Names and addresses of representatives in the United Kingdom :**
Noms et adresses des représentants au Royaume-Uni :

Dr Tim Carter – IMHA Board Member
Room 2/10 Department for Transport
76 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DR

5. **Aims and purposes of the organization (as set forth in its constitution) :**
Objectifs et buts de l'organisation (tels qu'ils sont définis dans ses statuts) :

Article 4 of the « Rules & Regulations » (attached for easy reference) states the objectives of the association :

The association is a non profit-making organization with no political or governmental affiliations. Its aim is to improve the quality of maritime healthcare and to support high standards of health and safety at sea. The association will act as a source of information and advice for other organisations, governments, shipping companies, seafarers organizations and professional bodies.

In order to achieve this aim IMHA will:

- Work to define and improve standards in healthcare for all employees in the maritime industry.
- Encourage scientific research in maritime health.
- Promote the exchange of data and results from research projects.
- Provide expertise to assist with the preparation of reports and guidelines on maritime health, at an international level.
- Promote the development of quality assured international health services and systems in the maritime sector.
- Assist with the international co-ordination of maritime health initiatives.
- Encourage and facilitate education and training in maritime healthcare.
- Co-operate with international organisations (i.e. the World Health Organisation, the International Maritime Organisation and the International Labour Office), governments, ship owners, seafarers organizations and professional bodies.

6. **History :**
Historique :

International symposia for maritime physicians and others interested in health and safety of seafarers have been held since the nineteen sixties. These symposia were biannual meetings of leading figures in maritime health care but lacked the continuity and impact needed to develop the strategies required to improve the health of workers in the maritime industry. Representatives of various international organisations such as ILO, WHO and IMO asked the symposium organizers on several occasions if they could start an association which would be a source of continuing expertise in maritime health and medicine.

IMHA was founded in 1997 during the "4th International Symposium on Maritime Health" on the initiative of seven founding members, who formed the first board of directors with a president, vice-president, secretary and four members. The General Meeting in London 1999 elected the same board for a second term of two years and adapted the slightly changed bylaws. The most recent General Meeting was held in Manila during the "6th International Symposium on Maritime Health" in 2001 and the current board and officers were elected.

7. **Recent and planned activities :**
Activités récentes et activités prévues :

- Participation in the Inter-agency consultation on HIV/AIDS prevention in the maritime sector in London (15 & 16 October 1997).
- Participation in the maritime medicine meeting near Paris "Troisième Journées de la médecine des gens de mer" (9 & 10 October 1997).
- Participation in the "V Jornadas Nacionales de Medicina Marítima" in Palamos, Spain, organized by SEMM (Sociedad Española de Medicina Marítima, 6 – 8 December 1997)
- Participation of IMHA Board Members in the ILO/WHO Consultation on Guidelines for conducting medical examinations for seafarers in Geneva (25 – 27 November 1997).
- Opening IMHA web page on the Internet (April 1998).

- Participation as lecturers in the WHO Inter-country Training Course on Maritime Occupational Health at the Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia, Poland (14 – 28 June 1998).
- Participation in the National Maritime Medicine Meeting in Croatia in 1998.
- Assistance in the preparation of the 5th International Symposium on Maritime Health in London (8 – 13 May 1999).
- Organisation of the Workshop on infectious diseases in Antwerp (6 – 8 August 1999).
- Organisation of the IMHA Inter-country Training Course on Maritime Occupational Health in Gdynia, Poland (27 – 30 September 1999).
- Translation into English and publication on the Internet of the Spanish text of a "Medical Refresher Course" prepared by Dr. L. Canals (IMHA board member).
- Participation to ILO Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industries in Geneva (December 1999).
- Participation to the 1st International Conference on Occupational Risk Prevention in Tenerife (23, 24 & 25 February 2000).
- Assistance in the preparation of the 6th International Symposium on Maritime Health in Manila, Philippines (November 2001)
- IMHA E-News : 1st Electronic Newsletter (January 2002)
- Participation in the 1st WMI Conference - "STCW 95 : an evaluation of the implementation by maritime training centres - Ostend Belgium - (March 2002)
- IMHA Workshop "Health and Risk Prevention in Harbours" in Barcelona (April 2002)
- IMHA Workshop on "Telemedicine" in Rome (May 2002)
- Participation to the Congress on Social Protection of Fishermen" in Bamio (Spain) , (June 2002)
- Participation to the ISS Sports Seminar in Kaszuby (Poland) - June 2002
- Participation the "World Congress on drowning" in Amsterdam (June 2002)

Planned Activities :

- Workshop on Health in the Fishing Industry in Cadiz (Spain), October 2002
- Assistance in the preparation of the 7th International Symposium on Maritime Health in Barcelona, Spain (April 2003)

8. Description statement of the extent to which the purpose of the organisation relate to those of IMO, including in particular what contribution your organisation can make to the technical co-operation programme of IMO

Exposé explicatif de la mesure dans laquelle les buts de l'organisation sont en rapport avec ceux de l'OMI, incluant une indication concernant la contribution que votre organisation pourrait apporter au programme de co-operation technique de l'OMI.

- Safeguarding the safety and health of seafarers is one of the core objectives of the IMO and is also the main concern of IMHA.
- IMHA is uniquely well placed to support and develop the objectives and vision of IMO relating to health (see attached memorandum).
- More specifically IMHA can advise any IMO committee or body that requires expertise on any aspect of maritime health. Several members of IMHA have participated in the past in sessions of the "Subcommittee on Standards on Training and Watch-keeping" concerning International eyesight standards, drug use and alcohol abuse and the assessment of physical fitness. In the near future the incorporation of medical fitness information into any new seafarer's identification system is likely to require input from the health professions about what items will benefit seafarers, what is practicable in clinical terms and what the ethical requirements are to safeguard medical confidentiality
- The active participation of IMHA members in the implementation of guidelines and conventions concerning medical fitness and other aspects of health in the maritime industry means that IMHA involvement in their development can ensure that they are practicable and fit for purpose.
- IMHA already advises other international organisations on the quality of research and review proposals in maritime health. Its members are also well placed to advise IMO on sources of expertise for research and review projects and to assist with their definition and management.
- Many of the members of IMHA are actively involved in training seafarers about health risks and the handling of medical emergencies including the development of telemedicine. They can help IMO shape

practical and compatible international frameworks for action on training.

9. **Structure :**
Structure :

IMHA is registered in Belgium as an international association, a specific status for international organisations.

The highest authority in IMHA is the General Meeting. Every two years they elect a board of seven members. They can be re-elected for one extra term in the same function and all members of the board have to be of a different nationality. The board consists of 1 President, 1 Vice-president, 1 Secretary and 4 Board members.

The immediate past-president serves in an advisory capacity during two years.

IMHA has a secretariat and employs a part-time administrative assistant.

10.* **Membership :**
Composition :

Both Individual and Corporate membership are possible.

Individual membership is open to every person interested in the safety and medical care of seafarers. Currently IMHA has 200 individual members, in good standing, in 47 countries. Individual members have the right to vote at the General Meeting.

Corporate membership is open to any organisation or company that is interested in maritime medicine and /or wishes to support the work of IMHA. Corporate members cannot vote at the General Meeting but are encouraged to form an advisory board, to assist the board of directors in his work.

11. **Officers :**
Dirigeants :

see 2. addresses of headquarters and 3. board members names & addresses

12. **Relations with other non-governmental organisations :**
Relations avec d'autres organisations non gouvernementales :

IMHA and its members already work with a wide range of maritime and health related organisations, including ITF, ICSW, ISF, national maritime and health professional organisations in the member's countries and institutes and universities with relevant skills and expertise (see earlier sections).

13. **Relations with inter-governmental organisations :**
Relations avec des organisations intergouvernementales :

IMHA collaborates with the WHO and ILO and members have participated in meetings as advisers on maritime health topics, both as invited experts and as members of delegations. For example representing IMHA in the the ILO / WHO consultation on Guidelines for Conducting Pre-sea and Periodic Medical Fitness Examinations for Seafarers held in Geneva from 25 to 27 November 1997. Their expertise played a major part in shaping the content of this key international publication.

14. **Finance :**
Financement :

IMHA is a non-profit association, financed by the Individual and Corporate member fees and sponsorship. Care is taken to ensure that any sponsorship received is free from unethical or inappropriate demands

The board of directors works on a voluntary basis.

IMHA received a grant from ITF Seafarers Trust to start a secretariat and build its structure.

IMHA also obtained a grant from Norway derived from the profit of the symposium held there in 1997.

15. **Publications:**
Publications:

- *Quarterly IMHA-newsletter*
- "International Maritime Health" a scientific journal on maritime medicine published in co-operation with the Institute on Maritime and Tropical medicine in Gdynia, a WHO collaborating centre on seafarer's health.
- Articles on maritime medicine and related research by members in various international maritime, medical and scientific journals.
- A web-site to inform the members and the public about IMHA and its activities including a discussion site for members about actual topics in maritime medicine. => **Internet:** <http://www.imha.net>

16.* **Documentation :**
Documents :

Rules & Regulations of IMHA, attached

17.* **Other remarks which the organisation wishes to make :**
Autres remarques que l'organisation désire faire :

See attached explanatory memorandum.

* 10, 16 and 17 available from the IMO Secretariat.