

COUNCIL
108th session
Agenda item 15(d)

C 108/15(d)/Add.1
14 May 2012
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(d) Relations with non-governmental organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document transmits an additional new application for consultative status

Strategic direction: 1.2

High-level action: 1.2.1

Planned output: 1.2.1.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 4

Related document: C 108/15(d)

Additional new application for consultative status

1 In addition to the six new applications for consultative status submitted in document C 108/15(d), an application was also received from the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF). The corresponding questionnaire is attached at annex¹. Additional information provided by ASF will be made available in electronic form only at IMODOCS (<http://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=629>).

2 With regard to this particular application, after an initial and thorough screening by the Secretariat, it appears that some of the basic conditions required for the grant of consultative status have not been met. These include compliance with the "One China" policy, the need for an applicant organization to be truly international and no access through or duplication with another organization already in consultative status with IMO.

3 Although ASF was invited to withdraw its application for the reasons explained above, ASF insisted that it be considered by the Council.

¹ The use of particular designations of countries or territories in this annex does not imply any expression or opinion or judgement by IMO as to the legal status of such countries or territories, or of their authorities and institutions or of the delimitation of their boundaries, nor should it be construed as an endorsement of recommendation on the part of IMO.

Action requested of the Council

4 The Council is invited to consider the application for consultative status submitted by ASF, and decide as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name of the Organization:

Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF)

2. Address of Headquarters:

10 Anson Road
#28-01A International Plaza
Singapore 079903

Telephone: (+65) 6325-4737

Fax: (+65) 6325-4451

E-mail:
information@asf.com.sg

Website:
<http://www.asianshipowners.org>

3. Addresses of all branches or regional headquarters:

None

4. Names of addresses of representatives in the United Kingdom:

None

5. Aims and purposes of the Organization (as set forth in its constitution):

- i) To promote, develop and support common interest of its members in all matters concerning the development of shipping and the efficient and economic carriage of goods and passengers by sea;
- ii) To foster, develop and maintain close cooperation and coordination between and among the members on shipping policy and other relevant matters of mutual and/or collective interest;
- iii) To assist any member on matters which are consistent with its policies and capability;

- iv) To formulate a common stand on Asian and international matters in maritime transport;
- v) To promote better shipping services and conditions, particularly in the Asian region, in order to achieve equitable, adequate, efficient and economic carriage of goods and passengers to, from and among the regions, and promote the optimum growth of international trade;
- vi) To promote, particularly in the Asian region, the safe operation of ships, protection of the environment and adherence to internationally-adopted standards and procedures; and
- vii) To represent the members in dealings with the port authorities, government, international and other organizations.

6. History:

The Asian Shipowners' Forum was formed in 1992 and Forum Meeting was held annually. A full list of members is provided under Section 10. The Chairman of the ASF is rotated among its members annually.

The ASF Secretariat Office was established in Singapore in November 2007. The ASF registered with Registry Of Societies of Singapore (ROS) as a Society under the Societies Act of Singapore with effect from 2 September 2010. The Unique Entity number (UEN) issued by the ROS, serving as reference number, is T10SS0126K.

7. Recent and planned activities:

- i) Annual General Meetings (AGM)
AGM is held in May in the country of the hosting member association. For 2012 to 2015, the AGM would be held in Australia (2012), India (2013), Japan (2014) and Korea (2015).
- ii) 5 Standing Committees
5 Standing Committees hold their interim meetings at least once a year in addition to the AGM.
- iii) Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
On the issue of ILO Maritime Labour Conventions, ASF had participated in the Regional Dialogue organized by AMSA in Cairns in May 2011.
- iv) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
ASF will be participating in the APEC Symposium to be held in Singapore during March 2012.
- v) Contact Group of Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)
ASF has been participating in the activities of the CGPCS. ASF had attended the Plenary Meeting in New York in July 2011 and Working Group 1 Meeting in Washington DC in February 2012. The ASF would continue to engage the CGPCS on the issue of Somali Piracy.

- vi) Consultative Shipping Group (CSG)
In June 2011, the ASF participated in the CSG/ICS Seminar on Shipping Policy held in Brussels.
In April 2012, the ASF will participate in the next CSG/ICS Seminar to be held in Singapore.
- vii) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
In July 2011, the ASF participated in the Workshop on Green Growth in Shipbuilding organized by the OECD Council Working Party on Shipbuilding (WP6) in Paris.
- viii) Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)
The ASF and ReCAAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August 2012. The ASF has been attending regularly the ReCAAP's Governing Council Meetings as well as the various forums organized by the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).
- ix) Letter to IMO and United Nations Secretary General
In June 2010, the ASF had addressed a letter to both the IMO Secretary General and the United Nations Secretary General conveying our grave concerns over the worsening piracy situation off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. In the Letter, the ASF had expressed our wish to see greater efforts from the international community to address the situation.
- x) Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF)
The ASF has been authorized by the Singapore Maritime Foundation, copyright owner of the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF), to solely distribute the SSF for a period of 2 years starting from November 2011 to October 2013.
- xi) Shipping Related Seminars and Conferences
The ASF has been participating frequently as speakers and panelists in various international seminars and conferences related to shipping.

8. Descriptive statement of the extent to which the purposes of the Organization relate to those of IMO, including in particular what contribution your Organization can make to the technical co-operation programme of IMO:

The 5 Standing Committees of ASF have been closely following the works of the IMO, especially the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Legal Committee.

The ASF is confident that our organization is able to contribute to the discussion and work of IMO by offering the Asian perspective which represents a significant proportion of the global shipping industry.

9. Structure:

The affairs of ASF shall be managed by Chairmen's Council as a governing body. The office bearers of the Chairmen's Council shall be as follows:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Council Members consisting of the Chairman or President or his alternate from each ASF member
- d. Secretary General
- e. Deputy Secretary General
- f. Honorary Treasurer

Currently, 5 Standing Committees are appointed to deal with shipping issues or other specialist matters. The Standing Committees were appointed by the Chairmen's Council who decides on the Chairman, Vice Chairman, composition and terms of reference.

The 5 Standing Committees are as follows:

- Seafarers Committee
- Shipping Economics Review Committee
- Shipping Insurance & Liability Committee
- Safe Navigation & Environment Committee
- Ship Recycling Committee

Daily activities of the ASF are handled by the ASF Secretariat Office under the supervision and charge of the Secretary General. The ASF Secretariat Office currently has 3 staff, the ASF Secretary General, an Executive Officer and a Secretary to the Secretary General.

**It is anticipated that the ASF Secretariat Office would be expanded with more staff if consultative status with IMO is granted.*

10. Membership:

The qualification for membership in ASF shall be associations of shipowners, being such associations as, in the opinion of ASF, are properly constituted to represent the shipowners in any country or region in Asia.

Only one shipowners' association of a country or region in Asia may be a member of ASF at any one time.

Current Membership includes:

- Australian Shipowners Association (ASA)
- China Shipowners' Association (CSA)
- Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA) **
- Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA)
- Indian Shipowners' Association (INSA)
- Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA)
- Korea Shipowners' Association (KSA)
- National Association of Chinese Shipowners (NACS)

** FASA comprises the national shipowners' associations from eight ASEAN countries, which are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

FASA was approved as an ASEAN Non-Governmental Organization at the 5th Meeting of the 14th ASEAN Standing Committee which was held in Manila on 21 May 1981.

11. Officers (as of 15 March 2012):

President - Mr. Noel Hart (Australia)

Vice-President - Mr. S. Hajara (India)

Chairmen's Council

ASA - Mr. Noel Hart (Australia)

CSA - Capt. Wei Jiafu (China)

FASA - Mr. Nordin Mat Yusoff (Malaysia)

HKSOA - Mr. Alan Tung (Hong Kong, SAR)

INSA - Mr. S. Hajara (India)

JSA - Mr. Akimitsu Ashida (Japan)

KSA - Mr. Jung-Chul Lee (Republic of Korea)

NACS - Mr. Bronson Hsieh (Chinese Taipei)

Honorary Treasurer - Mr. Patrick Phoon (Singapore)

5 Standing Committee Chairman

Seafarers Committee - Mr. Li Shanmin (China)

Shipping Economics Review Committee - Mr. Yasumi Kudo (Japan)

Ship Insurance And Liability Committee - Mr. George Chao (Hong Kong, SAR)

Safe Navigation & Environment Committee - Mr. Patrick Phoon (Singapore)

Ship Recycling Committee - Mr. Bronson Hsieh (Chinese Taipei)

Secretary General - Mr. Yuichi Sonoda (Japan)

Executive Officer - Mr. Elvin Tan (Singapore)

Secretary to Secretary General - Ms. Julie Ng (Singapore)

12. Relations with other non-governmental organizations:

The ASF is neither a member of, nor affiliated to, or otherwise associated with another organization which enjoys consultative status with IMO.

The ASF has been maintaining close liaison with the Round Table Organizations of Shipping namely BIMCO, ICS, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO.

13. Relations with inter-governmental organizations:

Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 27 August 2010 between the ASF and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

14. Finance:

The financial year shall begin on 01 January and end on 31 December of each year. Financial accounts are audited by the appointed auditor and an audit report is presented to the Annual General Meeting each year.

Majority of the budget for the ASF is funded by ASF member subscriptions and some part of the budget is contributed by non-members who are supporting ASF activities. The budget is reviewed and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

15. Publications:

ASF News is an article produced quarterly by the ASF Secretariat to update the ASF members of the recent activities and events of significance. The first issue, released in January 2012, is attached.

Press releases and other documents are available on the ASF Website as follows:
<http://www.asianshipowners.org>

16. Documentation:

ASF Constitution (Revision 1 - updated with amendments passed at a General Meeting of ASF members held on 24 May 2011) is attached.

17. Other remarks which the Organization wishes to make:

With Asia playing a pivotal role in international shipping, activities such as shipowning, ship management, shipbuilding, ship repair, ship recycling and seafarers supply are largely centred in the Asian region.

The ASF is hopeful that with an IMO NGO status, our organization would be able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the IMO to better represent the interests of the Asian shipping industry.
