

COUNCIL  
116th session  
Agenda item 15(g)

C 116/15(g)/Add.1  
4 July 2016  
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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (g) IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the recommendations of the Assessment Panel and the decision of the Panel of Judges on the recipient of the 2016 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	11
<i>High-level action:</i>	11.1.1
<i>Output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 14
<i>Related document:</i>	C 116/15(g)

#### Outcome of the Assessment Panel

1 As stated in paragraph 3 of document C 116/15(g), the Assessment Panel met at the IMO Headquarters on 16 May 2016, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General's nominee, the Director of the Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, to scrutinize the nominations (see annex to document C 116/15(g)) which had been received for this year's Awards. The Assessment Panel comprised representatives of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA), the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA), the International Salvage Union (ISU), the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

2 The Assessment Panel examined a total of 23 nominations, which had been received from nine Member States and one intergovernmental organization and, in accordance with the Guidelines for the Award, submitted its proposals for the Award, Certificates of Commendation and Letters of Commendation, together with the rationale leading to its recommendations, for consideration by the Panel of Judges.

### **Outcome of the Panel of Judges**

3 The Panel of Judges met at IMO Headquarters on 1 July 2016, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Council, to consider the recommendations of the Assessment Panel and to select the recipient of the Award. The Chairmen of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Cooperation Committee and the Facilitation Committee were present at the meeting. The Chairman of the Legal Committee could not attend but submitted his recommendations for consideration by the Panel.

4 After carefully considering the rationale and recommendations of the Assessment Panel, the Panel of Judges decided to select:

#### ***For the Award***

5 Captain Radhika Menon, Master of the M/T **Sampurna Swarajya**, nominated by India, as the recipient of the **2016 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**.

6 On the night of 16 June 2015, the fishing boat **Durgamma** suffered an engine failure due to severe weather conditions. After losing its anchor, the **Durgamma** was drifting for six days, leaving the seven fisherman on board weak, starving and frightened, until it was spotted by the M/T **Sampurna Swarajya** on 22 June.

7 Despite the fierce rain, wind speed of 60 to 70 knots and 27-foot high waves, Captain Menon, the first woman captain of the Indian Merchant Navy, did not hesitate to launch a rescue operation to help the sinking boat and, after three arduous attempts because of the turbulent sea, all seven fisherman were brought to safety.

8 The Panel was of the view that Captain Menon displayed great determination and courage in this rescue operation.

#### ***For Certificates of Commendation***

9 The Panel of Judges agreed that the following nominees (not in any order of merit) should also receive **Certificates of Commendation** citing their acts of bravery:

- Mr. Tang Shunjie, leader of the diving squad of the emergency response team, Dong Hai Rescue No.1 Flight Team, Dong Hai Rescue Bureau, nominated by China, for his tenacity and courage in rescuing the only survivor of a capsized fishing boat, who had been trapped in the engine-room for over 30 hours and was unable to cooperate, by clearing the access of dangerous fishing nets and other floating objects, in complete darkness, rough seas and strong currents;
- Captain Hervé Lepage, Master of the containership **CMA CGM Rossini**, nominated by France, for his tireless efforts to find and rescue, in adverse weather and sea conditions, two crew members of the capsized catamaran **Lama-Lo**, who had been drifting in a tender for 26 hours, by successfully estimating the drift of the beacon transmissions and, once the survivors were found, by skilfully manoeuvring the ship alongside the tender to get them on board;

- Shri B.M. Das, U/Nvk, winch operator and diver of the rescue helicopter CG 822, Indian Coast Guard Air Station Daman, nominated by India, for rescuing all 14 crew members of the M/V **Coastal Pride**, which was rolling heavily due to rough seas and strong winds, after being washed away by a strong swell which capsized, and eventually sank, the boat; and
- Assistant Inspector Kang Seonggyu, Special Rescue Unit of the Republic of Korea Coast Guard, nominated by the Republic of Korea, for his role in locating and rescuing a crew member confined in an engine-room air pocket of the capsized Chinese fishing vessel **Noyounger** 57189, after a previous Unit, who helped to unblock the entrance, was unable to locate the survivor.

### ***For Letters of Commendation***

10 The Panel further recommended that the following nominees (not in any order of merit) should receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their actions:

- The crew of the M/V **Cosco Shanghai**, nominated by China, for rescuing all 21 crew members of the sinking cargo ship **Foxhound**, who had abandoned their ship and were found in a life boat which had lost power, in darkness and strong winds;
- Captain O Yeong-tae, Master of the patrol vessel 3005, Republic of Korea Coast Guard, nominated by the Republic of Korea, for rescuing, during a heavy snow storm, the crew of a Chinese fishing vessel which was on fire. As a result of his good decision-making of extinguishing the fire first, which was spreading quickly due to strong winds, all 17 crew members were rescued and the vessel was also saved;
- Mr. Kim Jaegu and Mr. Shin Jongyoon, firefighter rescuers of the patrol vessel 1506, Republic of Korea Coast Guard, nominated by the Republic of Korea, for their courage and calmness while fighting a fire 3 metres away from the fuel tank of the cargo vessel **Platinum**, whose crew had been previously taken to safety, avoiding a high risk of explosion on board and thus preventing a tragic marine pollution incident; and
- Crews nominated by Spain and France, respectively, involved in the rescue of crew members and subsequent towing operation of the RO/RO vessel **Modern Express**, which was listing heavily, rolling, and drifting towards the coast, representing a grave risk to the marine environment:
  - The crew of the rescue helicopter Pesca II, Galicia Coast Guard Service, and the crew of the rescue helicopter Helimer 401, Spanish Maritime Safety Agency, nominated by Spain, for rescuing all 22 crew members;
  - The crew of a Lynx rescue helicopter, Flotilla 34F, and the crews of three Caïman rescue helicopters, Flotilla 33F, Lanvéoc-Poulmic Naval Air Station, French Navy, nominated by France, for their significant role in the towing operation.

### **Other matters addressed by the Panel of Judges**

11 As in previous years, the Panel of Judges noted that a full, clear and detailed description of the circumstances and events was missing from a number of nominations and thus making it difficult to accurately evaluate them. The Panel of Judges also concurred with the recommendation of the Assessment Panel that one nomination submitted did not meet the criteria for the Award, as the nominated rescue did not occur at sea or those rescued did not emanate from a vessel.

12 The Panel emphasized that Governments and organizations should be encouraged to submit nominations and that, if possible, they be submitted to the Secretariat well in advance of the stipulated deadline.

13 Taking into consideration the four nominations received in connection with the rescue of migrants at sea carried out by Coast Guard personnel, the Panel was of the view that the Secretary-General may wish to recognize at the Awards ceremony all the forces involved in such rescue operations for their outstanding humanitarian work and continued efforts.

### **Action requested of the Council**

14 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to endorse the outcome of the Panel of Judges with respect to its recommendations for the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea, the Certificates of Commendation and the Letters of Commendation.

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