



COUNCIL
96th session
Agenda item 14(g)

C 96/14(g)
15 May 2006
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(g) IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document submits draft Guidelines in connection with the establishment of an IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea and provides information on the anticipated costs related thereto, for consideration by the Council

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5 and paragraph 17 of annex 1

Related document: C 94/17(e)

1 The Council, at its ninety-fourth session (June 2005), agreed to the establishment of an IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea ("the Award") on the basis of a proposal made by the Secretary-General and requested him to prepare draft Guidelines for the Award, for consideration at its ninety-sixth session.

2 In pursuance of the aforementioned decision of the Council, the draft Guidelines prepared (see annex 1) are hereby submitted to the Council for consideration.

3 The anticipated costs related to the Award are estimated to be in the region of £3,000 per year. This sum is made up of:

- .1 the medal itself, which will be produced in silver and which is estimated to cost approximately [£15,152 for 50][or £303 each];
- .2 the cost, where necessary, of a return flight for the recipient of the Award from his/her country of origin to London, or to somewhere else, for the Award ceremony; and
- .3 the payment, where necessary, of corresponding per diem and terminal expenses.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

4 An initial design of the proposed medal is reproduced at annex 2.

Action requested of the Council

5 The Council is invited to consider the draft Guidelines and proposed medal and to decide as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE IMO AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA

Introduction

1 The aim of these Guidelines is to define the purpose of, and the criteria for granting, the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea (“the Award”). They stipulate the process by which nominations for the Award will be sought, considered, assessed, judged and decided; the form of the Award; and the manner in which it will be awarded.

Purpose and Criteria

2 The purpose of the Award is to provide a unique, international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery, displaying outstanding courage at sea.

3 The Award will be conferred on individuals or groups of individuals who, at the risk to their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery in attempting to save life at sea or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment. The Award may also be granted posthumously.

Nominations

4 Nominations for the Award should be made by Member Governments. Such nominations should be addressed to the Secretary-General (in accordance with procedures outlined in the circular inviting nominations) and should provide a full description of the circumstances and events giving rise to the nomination. They should, as appropriate, include such factors as:

- .1 location of the incident;
- .2 prevailing weather conditions;
- .3 seamanship and skill displayed;
- .4 leadership demonstrated;
- .5 determination to conduct the rescue operation;
- .6 exceptional courage demonstrated;
- .7 degree of risk (to human lives and/or the marine environment) involved; as well as
- .8 any other information supporting the nomination.

Form of the Award

5 The Award will take the form of a medal which will be accompanied by a certificate citing the act of exceptional bravery performed.

Assessment Panel

6 Nominations for the Award will be scrutinized by an Assessment Panel composed of the Secretary-General or his nominee, as Chairman, together with experts nominated by the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with IMO:

- the International Shipping Federation Limited (ISF);
- the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU);
- the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA);
- the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA);
- the International Salvage Union (ISU);
- the International Lifeboat Federation (ILF); and
- the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA).

7 When the circumstances of a nomination involve marine environmental protection, an expert nominated by relevant environmental NGOs will be included in the Panel.

8 The members of the Panel will be appointed by the Secretary-General and will serve for one year in their personal and expert capacity and not as representatives of the organizations nominating them.

9 The function of the Assessment Panel will be to review the nominations for the Award, taking into account the Award's purpose and criteria *vis-à-vis* the description of the factual circumstances giving rise to the nomination and related supporting documentation. The Panel will submit to a Panel of Judges a shortlist ranking the nominees in order of preference, along with the rationale for their recommendation.

Panel of Judges

10 Panel of Judges composed of the Chairmen of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Legal Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee and chaired by the Chairman of the Council will consider the recommendations of the Assessment Panel and select the recipient of the Award.

11 In the event that one or more of the participating Chairmen is not available to serve, the corresponding Vice-Chairmen (or the 1st Vice-Chairman of Committees which are served by more than one Vice-Chairman) may serve in their place as members of the Panel.

12 In the event that the Chairman of the Panel (i.e. the Chairman of the Council) is not available, the Vice-Chairman of the Council will serve as Chairman.

13 No Award will be made in the event that the Panel of Judges decides that the acts performed by the shortlisted nominees do not merit the Award. In such cases, however, the Panel of Judges may, nevertheless, decide to recommend that one or more of the acts performed by such nominees should be recognized by the Organization through the award of an appropriate certificate.

14 The Council will be invited to endorse the outcome of the Panel of Judges.

Award ceremony

15 The IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea will be presented by the Secretary-General at IMO Headquarters on the occasion of World Maritime Day or another major IMO occasion, as appropriate, taking into account, *inter alia*, the availability of the recipient.

16 In exceptional circumstances the Award may be presented at an alternative location, possibly in conjunction with a World Maritime Day parallel event celebration.

Timetable

17 Every effort should be made to ensure that a timetable along the following lines, leading to the Award ceremony, be observed:

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| • Circular letter inviting nominations | January |
| • Deadline for receipt of nominations | April |
| • Review by Assessment Panel | May |
| • Consideration by the Panel of Judges | June (Friday before Council week) |
| • Council invited to endorse outcome of Panel of Judges | June |
| • Notification of recipient and press release | June |
| • Award Ceremony - World Maritime Day | September |

ANNEX 2



