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**INDIAN OCEAN MOU ON
PORT STATE CONTROL SECRETARIAT**

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PRESS RELEASE

INDIAN OCEAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HELD ITS SIXTEENTH PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN SAINT DENIS REUNION ISLAND

Saint Denis, Re-Union Island: The Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on port State control (IOMOU) held its sixteenth Committee meeting in the Re-Union Island from the 23rd - 26th of September, 2013. This meeting was hosted by the French Maritime Administration.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Wilfred Kagimbi (Kenya). The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Eric Levert, Director, French Maritime Administration, who welcomed the delegates to the Re-Union Island. He stated that since nineteen eighty two (1982), while signing in Paris the first Memorandum of Understanding on port State control, France has always been promoting importance of inspections done on a comprehensive and in a harmonized way. He also reiterated the commitment of the IOMOU to further promote and enhance port State control activities as well as continue its involvement in the IOMOU activities intended to eliminate sub-standard shipping in the region.

During this meeting, the Committee welcomed the Authority of Madagascar as an observer to the sixteenth Committee meeting.

The sixteenth meeting of the port State control Committee was attended by ten of the seventeen member States viz Australia, France, India, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania with the Bangladesh, Comoros, Eritrea, Maldives, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Yemen not being able to attend. In addition, the representatives of the Abuja MOU, Black Sea MOU, Equasis, and Madagascar participated in the meeting as observers. Observers from the International Maritime Organisation, International Labour Organisation, Tokyo MOU, the United States Coast Guard, were unable to attend.

The Committee Members were advised of the successful conduct of the Maritime English Programme at Comoros organized by the IOMOU Secretariat with the help of Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) under the AusAID and AMSA Public Sector Linkages Programme (PSLP) for PSCOs under Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Twenty seven participants attended the course from Comoros, Eritrea, Maldives, Mozambique, Oman, Sudan and Tanzania. The first Expert Mission Training Programme is scheduled to be held in Vishakhapatnam, India in December, 2013, with the assistance of the Tokyo MoU.

The Committee adopted the 2012 Annual Report including the overview of the activities of the IOMOU for the period and the statistics including inspections. A total of 5051 inspections were carried out in 2012. Out of these 5051 inspections, 2800 inspections had deficiencies and the total number of deficiencies were 14950. Serious deficiencies noted by PSCOs led to the detention of 433 ships.

The main objective of the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Indian Ocean is to establish an effective PSC regime in the Indian Ocean region through co-operation and harmonization of the PSC activities of the member Authorities. It aims at eliminating sub-standard shipping, so as to promote maritime safety, to protect the marine environment and to safeguard working and living conditions on board.

The Committee considered and adopted amendments to the Memorandum for inclusion of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 and the International Convention on the control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001 as the relevant instruments under the IOMOU.

The Committee discussed matters relating to PSC technical procedures and guidelines, concentrated inspection campaigns, information system and information exchange, evaluation of work done by the Secretariat and the IOCIS Managers, statistical analysis, evaluation of the IOMOU performance and effectiveness of the PSC inspections of the member Authorities, regional and interregional technical co-operation activities. The amended version of the port State control manual was adopted by the Committee. The Committee also adopted the Strategic Plan for the IOMOU for the period 2013-18. In order to promote better understanding of the activities of the organization and to monitor the developments and changes in the industry which could impact the quality of shipping, the Committee decided to have a forum with the industry during the Committee meeting. Accordingly, the Secretariat was advised to invite the representatives of the industry during the next Committee meeting.

The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Francois BEAUGRAND, Deputy PSC Coordinator, Directorate for Maritime Affairs, Ministère, de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie, France as Chairman for a period of three years. The seventeenth Committee meeting of the IOMOU on port State control Committee will be held in Oman in September 2014.

The IOMOU was concluded in June 1998 and came into operation on 1st April 1999. The first Committee meeting of MOU took place at Goa from 20th to 22nd January 1999. During this period and at the first meeting, the following countries signed acceptance of the Memorandum of Understanding: Australia, Eritrea, India, Sudan, South Africa and Tanzania. Subsequently, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Iran, Kenya, Maldives, Oman, Yemen, France, Bangladesh, Comoros and Mozambique acceded to the MOU. As at September 2013, seventeen countries have become parties to the Memorandum. The Maritime Authority of the United States Coast Guard and Black Sea MOU, Equasis, Ethiopia, West & Central Africa MOU, the International Maritime Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, Tokyo MOU, and Riyadh MOU are associated with the IOMOU as observers.

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