



12th APEC Transportation Working Group Meeting  
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Agenda Item 7

TPT/WG12/PLEN/7.8

Plenary Session

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON OIL SPILLS :  
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

PHILIPPINES

**Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation**

**Regional Cooperation on Oil Spills**

**Preparedness and Response Arrangements**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Philippines**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report aims to come up with an inventory of existing oil spills preparedness and response arrangements in the APFC region.

The project was initiated by Australia and submitted to the 9th APEC Regional Energy Cooperation Working Group (REC-WG). REC-WG noted that transport agencies in member economies have the main responsibility to respond to oil spills and have already undertaken a degree of coordination. REC-WG referred the proposal to the 7th APEC TPT-WG. The TPT-WG confirmed its commitment to the protection of the environment. As an initial step, the Philippines agreed to undertake an inventory of existing arrangements and means of reaction available in the region.

The inventory consists of seven bilateral arrangements between economies in the region. Australia has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with New Zealand, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, respectively. The United States has entered into a similar accord with Japan, Canada and Mexico. In ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have also linked up to forge a joint oil spill combat arrangement. In Southeast Asia, two trilateral arrangements have also been formed among Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines and another among Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Regional arrangements also exist in ASEAN called the Oil Spills Response Action Plan (OSRAP). Japan is involved in the Northwest Pacific Regional Sea Programme promoted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). New Zealand, together with the other nations in the South Pacific adopted a Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region.

On a global scale, the Treaty on the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC) adopted in November 1990 by a Conference convened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), became part of International Law on 13 May 1995.

- 4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response, November 1990.
- 5) The Joint Canada-United States Marine Pollution Contingency Plan for Spills of Oil and Other Noxious Substances.
- 6) Bilateral agreement between United States and Mexico.
- 7) Standard Operating Procedure for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the South China Sea including Brunei Bay between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia on 07 November 1995.

## 2.2 Trilateral Arrangements

Trilateral oil spill response arrangements also exist in the region.

- 1) Sulawesi Sea Oil Spill Response Network formed by Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines.
- 2) Tripartite Oil Spill Contingency Plan known as Standard Operating Procedure for Joint Oil Spill Combat in the Straits of Malaysia and Singapore (SOP forged in April 1984 among Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

## 2.3 Regional Arrangements

- 1) ASEAN OSRAP

Among ASEAN economies, a regional oil spills response arrangements was forged in May 1993 called the ASEAN Oil Spill Response Action Plan (OSRAP). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in Tokyo at the Third Meeting of Project on Oil Spills Preparedness and Response in the ASEAN Sea Area (OSPAR) Project. Japan has been actively promoting OSPAR since 1990.

The MOU which was drafted in consonance with the OPRC Convention 1990, also offers a mobilization scheme which can be utilized by the oil industry under the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) organizations as well as government response team on an international level.

- 2) APEC economies are likewise involved in other regional oil spills arrangements. In 1986, New Zealand with other nations in the South Pacific adopted a Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region.

In addition to the OPCC, the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee has established an OPRC Working Group to undertake research and contingency planning exercises, training course development and database management on oil pollution response.

## 2.5 National Oil Spill Response Plans

APEC economies have also submitted information regarding their respective national oil spill contingency plan. The plan which is in accord with OPRC '90 deals with oil spills that may occur in inland waters, port districts, coastal area and at sea, both in the territorial sea and their exclusive economic zone.

This national contingency plan involves designated national authorities and operational focal points responsible for oil pollution preparedness and response, reporting and handling requests for assistance.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the inventory of oil spills response arrangements existing in the region, APEC TPT-WG member are requested to consider the merits of establishing a broader cooperative regional oil spills preparedness and response arrangements as contemplated by OPRC '90.

9. New Zealand

Letter dated 19 June 1995 informing that New Zealand with the nations of the South Pacific adopted in 1986 a Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region. Also attached was a copy of the MOU between the Maritime Safety Authority of New Zealand and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

10. People's Republic of China

A letter dated 24 October 1995 informing that PROC has not entered into any bilateral oil spills response arrangements with any other economy in the APEC region.

11. Philippines

A copy each of the following documents:

- a. ASEAN Oil Spills Response Action Plan (OSRAP)
- b. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

12. Singapore

Letter dated 23 November 1995 informing the existence of the trilateral oil spill combat arrangement between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore known as the Standard Operating Procedures for Joint Oil Spills Combat in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOP) adopted in April 1984

13. Thailand

A copy of the National Oil Spill Response Plan of Thailand

14. United States of America

Letter dated 10 April 1997 informing that the United States has bilateral agreements with Japan, Mexico and Canada on oil spills response arrangements. Also attached was a copy of an International Maritime Organization (IMO) paper on Regional Technical Cooperation Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment.