



INDIAN OCEAN MOU ON PORT STATE CONTROL

PRESS RELEASE

The Committee Celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the IOMOU during the Twenty - Seventh Committee meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) on Port State Control held its twenty-seventh Committee meeting along with its **25 years' celebration**, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 26-30 August 2024 through physical appearance by the member Authorities. This meeting was hosted by the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) and chaired by Capt. Tobela Gqabu Regional Manager, East Region, South African Maritime Safety Authority, South Africa.

Mr. Mohamed M. Salum, Director General, TASAC welcomed the delegates, and the meeting was officially declared opened by the Chief Guest Prof. Godius Khayarara, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Tanzania.

A short film on the 25 years of IOMOU was screened during the opening ceremony as a mark of 25th year's celebration of the Indian Ocean MOU efforts towards eliminating substandard shipping in the Indian Ocean region.

The Member Authorities of Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tanzania were physically present at the meeting. In addition, Abuja MOU, Black Sea MoU, and Paris MoU participated in the meeting as Observers.

Other observers to the IOMOU like Tokyo MoU, International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO) participated in the meeting through virtual mode. The IOCIS Managers also participated in the meeting.

The Correspondence Groups (CG) presented reports on various topics. Under Enhancement in Ship Targeting for Inspection, the Committee concluded that, based on analysis made by IOCIS Manager, Lloyds List Intelligence (LLI) data cannot be used for deciding target rate of inspection, since 41 % of ships inspected in the year 2023 by IOMOU members, were missing in the ship movement data provided by LLI. Further, the Committee advised the Secretariat to approach to other service providers for any such port calling data for deciding target rate of inspections.

The Committee accepted the Hong Kong Convention, 2009, as relevant Instrument of the MOU.

The procedure for inspection through remote location by the PSCOs in Indian Ocean Region has been approved by the Committee with advice to the IOCIS Managers to make necessary modification in IOCIS for reporting such inspections separately. The process allows a Member State to consider a remote inspection where situations such as a pandemic prohibit boarding a ship. This process will be trialed over the next 12 months and report to be submitted to the Committee for review, if necessary.

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The Committee approved guidelines for accepting E-Certificates in Indian Ocean Region.

A Correspondence Group presented their report of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Fire Safety which was carried out from 1 September to 30 November 2023. The Committee noted that during the campaign, the member States carried out 1,432 Port State Control inspections on individual ships. Out of these PSC inspections, 1,164 inspections were carried out with a CIC questionnaire and four ships were detained as a direct result of the Fire Safety. The CIC analysis was submitted to the Implementation of IMO Instruments (III), 10th session. Noting the results, Member States will be focusing on sighting effective fire drills where appropriate.

The Committee also agreed to conduct CIC on Ballast Water Management in conjunction with Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU, for the year 2025.

The Committee approved amendments to the PSC Manual related to the addition of various codes and Guidelines for Port State Control for compliance with the ISM code, this includes harmonizing the approach to rejecting an unsatisfactory additional SMC audit after an ISM detention.

The Committee formed additional Correspondence Group for:

- .1 developing guidelines for PSC inspection related to Hong- Kong Convention;
- .2 developing procedure for using body worn camera by the PSCOs, while carrying out PSC Inspection, in Indian Ocean Region;
- .3 development of guidelines on IP Code for PSCOs
- .4 development of procedure for fishing vessel inspection in Indian Ocean Region including determination of deficiency and its codes. This will also consider where a separate database is required for fishing vessel inspections.

The Committee further adopted the 2023 Annual Report including the overview of the activities of the IOMOU for the period and the statistics including inspections. According to the report a total of 5,785 inspections were carried out in 2023. Out of these, 3,021 inspections had deficiencies and the total number of deficiencies were 13,346. 247 ships had deficiencies which were of serious nature warranting a detention. The number of inspections in 2023 increased as compared to 2022, also, the detention percentage increased from 3.93% recorded in 2022 to 4.27% in 2023. The Committee noted that the average number of deficiencies per inspection in 2023 (2.30) had increased compared to the previous year (1.95). This increase in detention rate and deficiencies per inspection was noted to relate to poor maintenance during and/or after COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee noted the progress made on the Co-operation programme between IOTC and IOMOU and completion of first in-country training on fishing vessel inspection.

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, an interactive session was held with the representatives from the Asian Classification Society, International Chamber of Shipping, International Association of Classification Society & Navguide Solutions LLP.

The Committee approved its annual Theme for the year 2025 as:

“Building a Resilient Maritime World: Safety, Cooperation and Innovation”.

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The Deficiency Photo award for the year 2023 was given to the Port State Control Officer from the Authority of Bangladesh.

On behalf of the member States, Capt. Tobela Gqabu concluded the meeting by remarking that significant progress had been made on the Port State Control issues during this meeting. He thanked the TASAC for the exceptional arrangements they provided for this Committee meeting and activities held on 25 years celebration. He also thanked the member States, Observers, Industry Stakeholders, the IOMOU Secretariat and IOCIS Managers for their contribution.

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Contact

IOMOU Secretariat
USHAKAL, 92, Rangavi Estate,
Goa-403801, India.
Tel: 918322538128
91 832 2538398
Fax: 91832 2538127
Emails: iomou.sec@nic.in