

# Update on IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group Activities and the Global Initiatives

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The IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG) serves as a key international oil industry forum which aims to improve the state of oil spill preparedness and response around the world. The OSWG is made up of oil spill managers and specialists from IPIECA member companies and associations, supported by invited representatives from other organisations in the oil spill response community.

Working through IPIECA, and involving organisations such as the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), the oil and gas industry has worked hard to reduce the frequency of spills whilst at the same time developing effective preparedness strategies in the unfortunate event of a spill through the production of consensus based publications, and the facilitation of information exchange through meetings, workshops and conferences.

Coordination between these industry-based organisations and the IMO remains an essential ingredient in the success of the OSWG programme. The OPRC Convention calls for national authorities to work with the oil and shipping industries to unify their efforts. In recognition of this, the IMO and IPIECA have been working together for over 13 years on the Global Initiative, a programme designed to encourage and where possible assist countries to develop or strengthen national structures for dealing with oil spills.

Key messages are delivered to industry and government representatives through joint IMO/IPIECA workshops and training sessions. GI projects are organised on a regional basis with focal points established for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF Project); the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Oil Industry Group); Caspian and Black Sea (Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative) and the Caribbean.

Following the recommendations of the 2006 Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas Congress in Haikou City, China, that "more emphasis should be placed on co-ordination and co-operation between maritime Administrations and industry groups in the spirit of the IMO/IPIECA Global



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Initiative (GI)", work has begun in the East Asian region to decide how best to take this work forward.