

Interactive PSSA display launched at IMO HQ and online

A new interactive display on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) has been launched at IMO Headquarters and online at pssa.imo.org

A PSSA is an area that needs special protection through action by IMO because of its significance for recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons and which may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities. To date, IMO has designated 14 PSSAs.

The new display and website include videos, pictures, maps, and graphic displays, telling the unique story of each of the 14 PSSAs, together with a special insight on IMO's work on this topic, past, present and future.

The display and website have been funded with the support of generous contributions from Australia, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Sweden.

Speaking at the launch of the display, IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu said it would serve as a continual reminder and a celebration of the substantial contribution that has been made to environmental protection through IMO's PSSA scheme.

"It is my great hope that this groundbreaking display that we are going to formally inaugurate this evening will serve as a continual reminder and a celebration of the substantial contribution that has been made to environmental protection through IMO's PSSA scheme", Mr. Sekimizu said. "But, more than that, I hope that it will galvanise further efforts to identify, and protect, more of these special areas throughout the world."

The PSSAs designated by IMO to date are:

- The Great Barrier Reef, Australia (designated a PSSA in 1990)
- The Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago in Cuba (1997)
- Malpelo Island, Colombia (2002)
- The sea around the Florida Keys, United States (2002)
- The Wadden Sea, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands (2002)
- Paracas National Reserve, Peru (2003)
- Western European Waters (2004)

- Extension of the existing Great Barrier Reef PSSA to include the Torres Strait (proposed by Australia and Papua New Guinea) (2005)
- Canary Islands, Spain (2005)
- The Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador (2005)
- The Baltic Sea area, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden (2005)
- The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, United States (2007)
- The Strait of Bonifacio, France and Italy (2011)
- The Saba Bank, in the North-eastern Caribbean area of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2012)

The new display at IMO Headquarters highlights a major part of the Organization's work to protect the marine environment



IMO Secretary-General meets new IACS chairman

IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu has met with the new Chairman of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), Mr. Roberto Cazzulo (right), Chairman of RINA Services.

Mr. Sekimizu congratulated Mr. Cazzulo on his appointment and expressed his appreciation to IACS for its long and ongoing support of IMO's work on maritime safety, security and the prevention of marine pollution by ships and stated that he looked forward to their continued co-operation. IACS has held consultative status with IMO since 1969.

At the meeting, held at IMO Headquarters in London, Mr. Cazzulo informed the IMO Secretary-General that IACS has agreed to instruct an advisory group of its experts to have an open discussion and exchange of information on the structural design, construction, operation and survey of containership. The IMO Secretary-General expressed his appreciation at the formation of this Group by IACS, which he considered particularly timely and welcome.



IMO's GloBallast Partnerships Project wins international maritime award

IMO's GloBallast Partnerships Project, which assists developing countries and their maritime industries in implementation of the international regulations on ballast water management to prevent the spread of alien invasive species, has won the 6th Marine BizTV International Maritime Award for "Best Innovative Project".

The award was presented during the 6th Marine BizTV International Maritime Award ceremony, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 15 May 2013. The jury, in considering the most innovative and creative achievements of global and regional maritime organizations and their initiatives, agreed to award the IMO-UNDP-GEF GloBallast Partnerships Project the "Best Innovative Project" award for its role in catalyzing the global efforts to find innovative technological solutions for the management of ships' ballast water and its international position as a successful technical co-operation and capacity building project. The Project is executed by IMO with funding support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The award honoured GloBallast's global impact in terms of preparing developing countries and their maritime industries for implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments,

2004, its role in assisting the maritime industry to overcome technical challenges through its pioneering Global Industry Alliance (GIA) initiative and for catalyzing significant global efforts to address one of the most pressing environmental issues that the maritime industry is currently facing.

"We're delighted and thrilled with this special recognition of our work", said Dr Jose Matheickal, Chief Technical Adviser of the Project at IMO. "Innovation is firmly anchored in the GloBallast Project's delivery strategy, to go beyond the original goals of the project. We're consistently integrating this into all our outreach and partnership strategies. This international award is a true recognition of the innovative efforts of our lead partnering countries, regional co-ordination partners, global strategic partners including GEF and UNDP and members of the Programme Co-ordination Unit at IMO, who all played a key role in making this global project a true success story".

This is the third international award presented to the GloBallast project since its inception in 2000. In 2003, GloBallast won the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and in 2007, the awareness-raising video documentary, "Invaders from the Sea", produced by GloBallast jointly with the BBC, won the Gold Award for Best UN Feature Film at the United Nations Documentary Film Festival.

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ICAO, IMO and WCO chiefs strengthen ties in promoting global supply chain security

The heads of IMO, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) have met in London to discuss supply-chain security and related matters which apply to the mandates of all three Organizations.

IMO Secretary-General Mr. Koji Sekimizu welcomed his counterparts, Mr. Raymond Benjamin, (ICAO) and Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, (WCO) to IMO Headquarters on Monday 8 July. The three leaders considered the further enhancement of collaboration between the Organizations in the fields of aviation, border and maritime security and facilitation. ICAO and IMO perform their roles as specialized agencies of the United Nations, while the WCO is an independent intergovernmental body.

“A sustainable maritime transportation system is reliant on a smooth and efficient supply chain and it is essential that we work together to mitigate any potential threats,” IMO Secretary-General Sekimizu said. “A key element of this is building partnerships to support technical assistance and co-operation, particularly in the developing countries and in any high-risk areas, to address vulnerabilities in global supply-chain security and create opportunities to enhance trade facilitation.”

“ICAO recognizes and fully supports that effective co-operation is the basis for realizing the objectives of our Organizations,” said ICAO Secretary-General Benjamin. “The constantly evolving threats posed by global terrorism must be met with highly co-ordinated transportation security and border control measures in order to minimise adverse impacts on international passenger and trade flows.”

Secretary-General Mukuriya of the WCO highlighted that: “Meaningful, dynamic and effective partnerships at the international level are critical to how all our Organizations meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the 21st century border and trade environment. Today’s globalized trade and travel requires new thinking, co-ordinated approaches and connectivity between all stakeholders to efficiently secure and facilitate legitimate trade, support economic competitiveness and provide protection to societies.”

The Secretaries General exchanged information on progress in further developing and harmonizing the international frameworks for aviation, border and maritime supply-chain security

and facilitation under their respective instruments. They acknowledged the potential impact of major disruption at critical transport nodes on global supply chains and expressed the need to manage risks in a holistic and system-oriented manner. The importance of innovation and creative thinking to optimize security and facilitation of international transport and trade was stressed during the meeting.

The Secretaries General underlined the need for joint technical assistance and co-operation efforts to address vulnerabilities in global supply-chain security and grasp opportunities to enhance trade facilitation. They undertook to promote dialogue at State level between transport security and Customs authorities to enhance information sharing, align national legal frameworks and requirements, and maximize synergies.

The Secretaries General agreed to meet again in a trilateral setting to review progress in this area.

IMO and WCO co-operate in the fields of maritime and supply-chain security, facilitation of international maritime transport, and maritime law enforcement as well as on countering maritime terrorism.

IMO and ICAO co-operate on a number of matters, including search and rescue, supply-chain security, and facilitation. The ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue holds regular meetings.

IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu is flanked by his counterparts Raymond Benjamin of ICAO (left) and Kunio Mikuriya of WCO

