

IMO contributes to meeting of Asia-Pacific ship safety heads

It was announced by IMO on 24 March that the organization participated in the annual gathering of Asia Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies ([APHoMSA](#)*) in Langkawi, Malaysia from 20-24 March.

Participants from 24 IMO Member States as well as observers from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities ([IALA](#)), the International Hydrographic Organization ([IHO](#)) and the South Pacific Commission ([SPC](#)) took part in discussions surrounding APHoMSA's work to promote safe, secure shipping and a clean marine environment within the Asia-Pacific region.

This event coincided with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2017 week, which brought together senior maritime officials from Pacific Ocean Rim countries and territories to exchange ideas and identify areas of cooperation.

Speaking at the event, HE Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport, reaffirmed the Malaysian Government's support for both APHoMSA and IMO objectives.

IMO was represented by Juvenal Shiundu and Josephine Uranza.

Zulkurnain Ayub, Chair of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee, was also present.

*The Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was established in 1996 to promote safe, secure shipping and a clean marine environment within the Asia-Pacific region.

APHoMSA achieves this by bringing together senior maritime officials to build and maintain a strong understanding of shared maritime issues, identify and coordinate technical cooperation efforts and represent the region's interest in enhancing international standards.

Members are committed to improving cooperation and exchange of information on maritime security, maritime safety, marine environment protection and safety of people at sea.

APHoMSA is held annually and Chile will host in 2018.

The APHoMSA membership group consists of heads of maritime agencies from:

-  [Australia](#)

-  [Canada](#)
-  [Chile](#)
-  [China](#)
-  [Cook Islands](#)
-  [Fiji](#)
-  [Hong Kong, China](#)
-  [Indonesia](#)
-  [Japan](#)
-  [Kiribati](#)
-  [Republic of Korea](#)
-  [Malaysia](#)
-  [Federated States of Micronesia](#)
-  [New Caledonia](#)
-  [New Zealand](#)
-  [Niue](#)
-  [Papua New Guinea](#)
-  [Philippines](#)
-  [Singapore](#)
-  [Solomon Islands](#)
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-  [United States of America](#)
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