A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In carrying out its activities, MOIG has specific regard to translate its vision and declared objectives into actions that can be measured and improved. This is done through the business plan that contains financial projections, activities and programs aimed at helping MOIG members in their continuous endeavours to strengthen measures related to prevention, preparedness and credible response to accidental oil spills in the Mediterranean region.

I would like to take this opportunity to underline that during the Management Committee Meeting N°19; we discussed and implemented an ambitious and realistic programme which will be conducted in the Mediterranean region in cooperation with our members and technical partners during the next two years. I believe that for MOIG to achieve activities implemented in its business plan, it needs collective support and contribution of all members. Without contribution and permanent budget, our organization cannot survive and this is one of the challenges we have to face in the two coming years. In this regards, I am looking forward to outstanding contributions from members to deliver the MOIG activities planned in 2022-2023.

On the other hand, I am very pleased to announce that the forthcoming General Assembly Meeting is expected to be held in October 2022; in Opatija-Croatia; in conjunction with the Regional Workshop on Enhancing Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Regions. The exact date will be provided to members and technical partners in due time.

I would like to conclude my word by thanking members, technical partners and particularly ETAP General Management for agreeing to MOIG request to be the official sponsor of the regional workshop on the role of volunteers in pollution response along the coast and in the shoreline, to be held on 10-11 May 2022; at the Russelier Hotel in South Hammamet-Tunisia. I am looking forward to member’s active participation to this important event.

Mahmoud Abdussalm Kamour - MOIG Chairman

OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENTS DATABASE

As previously announced in the last MOIG Newsletter issue 046, we would like to remind that all the claims received from members related to the handling and data storage of the Oil Spill Response (OSR) equipments have been processed.

We wish to underline that the OSR equipments database constitutes a key limestone and an invaluable source of information for members to communicate and share their resources in case of oil spill incidents.

The Management Committee is looking forward on member’s valuable collaboration to complete the database; as soon as possible. This action will allow us to schedule a National workshop on coordination in which will be discussed the second draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); in respect of Mutual Aid Agreement in the Control of Marine Pollution Events Level 2. Please do not hesitate to contact MOIG secretariat by mail at: houcine.meiri@moig.org.tn for any issue encountered during the loading of the OSR equipments data.
SEMINAR ON TIERED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: SURVEILLANCE, MODELLING AND VISUALISATION

24 March 2022, the MOIG Director participated; via electronic conferencing platform; to seminar titled Tiered Preparedness and Response: Surveillance, modelling and visualisation organized by Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL); technical partner.

The seminar was presented by Simon McCosh, Aviation Liaison Officer and Simon Blaen, Geomatics Supervisor from OSRL.

Simon McCosh started by presenting the capabilities of tiered preparedness and response related to surveillance, modelling and visualisation. He then talked a little bit about surveillance highlighting that it can be considered as strategy and can help in the detection of local oil spills.

Simon McCosh presented the Satellite Imagery – Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and underlined that the Satellite Images do not replace the need for aerial surveillance, but provide guidance to aerial surveillance mission tasking’s and help verify trajectory modelling.

Simon McCosh described the advantages of the Satellite Imagery highlighting that it provides a wide coverage area up to (500 km * 500 km = 250,000 Km²) and also considered as a proven technology widely accepted and understood. For the disadvantages, he explained that the Satellite Imagery discriminates between thin or thick oil and aerial surveillance is still required. In addition, he emphasized that the Satellite Imagery interpretation requires a skilled analyst and takes time to task position satellites, process and interpret images.

On the other hand, Simon McCosh exposed the main aims of the surveillance missions which are to reduce false positives, to confirm oil or not oil at sea and source of spill if required, to locate at the slicks and accurately describe the slicks appearance, volume and trajectory. In addition, the surveillance provides an accurate situational awareness to the Incident Management Team (IMT) and regulators, allowing decision making and ensures the effective use of response resources.

Simon McCosh explained the offshore and shoreline applications of the Unnamed Aerial Vehicles (UVAs). For the Offshore application, he noted that the UVAs can monitor the effectiveness of response operations and can be used in salvage and offshore installation support. Regarding the shoreline application, he underlined that the UVAs can support SCAT shoreline assessments and segmentation in remote areas or locations that are unsafe or inaccessible, identify where to place protection/containment booms as well as wildlife surveying.

Simon McCosh also explained the UVAs advantages highlighting that it’s a quick and efficient method of obtaining site-specific and lower level vertical photography (20-30 m) as well as offer high resolution imagery at a lower altitude compared to manned aircraft. For the disadvantages, he underlined that UVAs have limit battery duration. He concluded that the future developments will focus on the areas of increased accessibility to larger UVAs as costs reduce and legislation allows greater flexibility of use as well as the investigating access to aircraft with greater range of gas sensors.

Simon Blaen started by presenting the oil spill modelling applications related to preparedness and response. For response modelling, he underlined that it requires knowledge of weather forecast (wind and current) and spill details. Regarding the preparedness modelling, he noted that the model used is stochastic and probabilistic comprising many trajectories. In addition, he explained that the preparedness modelling needs detailed analysis and statistics as well as the insertion of the historic data of wind and current.

Simon Blaen concluded by presenting the Surveillance, Modelling and Visualisation (SMV) process highlighting that it can improve situational awareness and helps achieve a better decision making.
VIRTUAL DESKTOP NOTIFICATION AND DECISION MAKING EXERCISE

10 March 2022, the MOIG Director participated; via electronic conferencing platform; to the virtual desktop on Notification, and Decision Making Exercise – Using an Oil Spill Contingency Plan to effectively carry out the initially response actions required to deal with an oil spill incident; organized by Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL); technical partner.

This virtual desktop was presented by Lee Barber; an incident and crisis management specialist at OSRL.

Lee Barber started by presenting the session objectives which were to familiarize members on Incident Management and Emergency Response Teams (IMT and EMT) as well as to share knowledge, encourage discussion, to identify any useful and practical improvements that can be made to the organizations oil spill planning and preparedness activities.

Lee Barber then explained the Emergency Response and Incident Management Staffing requirements highlighting that the response teams need a robust organizational system in place that is consistent and flexible to allow all internally departments and external agencies to work together to respond and manage incidents regardless for their cause, their level, location and complexity. He explained the tasks of the EMT and IMT stating that the EMT is able to conduct a hazard assessment, to establish communication, site control, safety and management, to perform appropriate notification and to utilize a continuous risk evaluation and mitigation process. Regarding the IMT, Lee barber underlined that they are able to establish communication and incident objectives, to liaise with partners, to implement Media Response Plan, to manage information flow, to provide technical and functional flow as well as to ensure integrity of the process during incidents by making corrective actions.

Lee Barber continued by presenting the response resource identification, notification and activation, mobilization and deployment methods. He underlined that the identification and organization of response equipment into tiered response categories; ensures that appropriate resources; can be mobilized rapidly and effectively to any spill ranging from small operational spills to a worst credible scenario. He then presented a description of oil spill incident that had occurred in a Cargo due to hose failure during a ship-ship transfer operation, on 22 January 2022, causing an approximately 11,250 to 11,750 liters of Marine Gas Oil lost at sea. In addition, he exposed the content of the SOPEP report notification received by the Onshore Marine Manager from the Wyatt Earp’s vessel master such as: the date/time of the vent, the incident location, the incident overview, the current situation, the personal on board, the other vessels involved and the weather conditions.

Lee Barber also explained the content of the incident assessment completed by the Onshore Marine Manager and Operations Manager. The assessment included answers to few keys questions such as: What event lead and type of incident has occurred, who’s currently involved when, where and how the incident happen, what measures are currently being taken to deal with incident, the immediate impacts to people, on environment and impacts on the assets.

Lee Barber presented the OSRL virtual technical support and mobilization of the On-site technical advisor service highlighting that there’s a Duty Manager who is available for advice 24 hours a day and also there’s a team of up to 5 personnel free for first 5 days. He underlined that the Duty Manager guides and assists in selecting the appropriate response strategies and developing mobilization and logistical support plans. For the team, he noted that they can assist on the following: Technical advice, incident management coaching with the command centre, contribution to the development of an incident management plan, training of contractors, SCAT and aerial survey as well as tactical response planning.

Lee Barber concluded by explaining the content of the Incident Action Plan and presenting an example of the tactical response plan developed by OSRL technical advisors.
MESSAGE OF THANKS

08 March 2022, The Management Committee Members are very delighted to announce that ETAP; one of MOIG founders; will be the official sponsor of the regional workshop on the role of volunteers in pollution response along the coast and in the shoreline; to be held on 10-11 May 2022; at the Russelior Hotel in South Hammamet-Tunisia.

For several years, ETAP has been sponsoring many MOIG events such as: Skhira Tier 1 oil spill response exercise, Bizerte Tier 2 oil spill exercise, the regional workshop on shoreline cleanup and the training course on crisis management and making decisions. The regional workshop on the role of volunteers will gather together MOIG members and representatives from relevant stakeholders.

The Management Committee Members would like to take this opportunity to thank ETAP General Management, for providing continuous support to MOIG activities in oil spill prevention, preparedness and response.

MEETING BETWEEN MOIG DIRECTOR AND ETAP REPRESENTATIVE

07 March 2022, a meeting was held in MOIG office between the MOIG Director and Mr. Hatem Ben Khelil, ETAP representative in Management Committee and HSSE Manager at Tyhna Petroleum Services (TPS), member.

The main topics of discussion during this meeting were the MOIG activities, the membership fees 2022, the topics to be discussed during the forthcoming Management Committee Meeting N°20 and the preparations of the regional workshop on the role of volunteers in pollution response along the coast and in the shoreline; to be held on 10-11 May 2022; at the Russelior Hotel in South Hammamet-Tunisia.

REPLY TO MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY CEDRE SURVEY 2022

05 March 2022, The Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) replied to the Center of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) request related to strategic survey 2022.

Cedre is a MOIG technical partner since 2006 and has an expertise in accidental water pollution. It has been operating in France and abroad for nearly 40 years. Its fundamental purpose is to provide advice and expertise to French and foreign authorities and private businesses in charge of spill response.

This survey aims to identify improvement or development opportunities for Cedre’s activities and resources. In agreement with the Strategy Committee, Cedre is currently conducting a study to define its strategic orientations for the next five (05) years. As part of this process, it was decided to conduct a “strengths/attractiveness” analysis for Cedre’s various MOIG responded to the strategic Cedre’s survey which included the following 07 sections: The profile, the emergency response, the knowledge development/Research, the audits and contingency planning, the training, the Information/Documentation and the aquatic litter.