

**71ST SESSION OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE
VTC, 20-24 September**

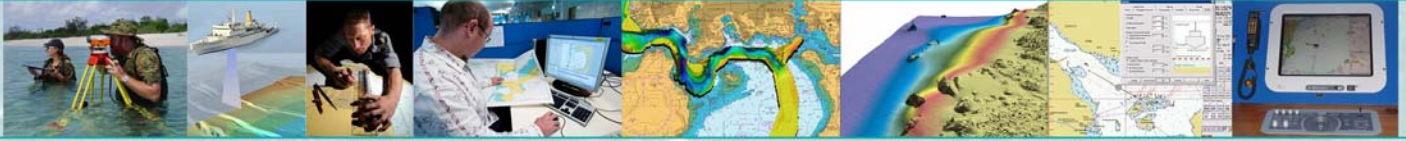
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 1.1.8.5	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including attendance of Technical Cooperation meetings

The Technical Cooperation Committee (TC) is the IMO body that considers matters within the scope of the implementation of technical cooperation projects for which the IMO acts as the executing or cooperating agency and any other matters related to the IMO's activities in the field of technical cooperation. The 71st session of the TC (TC 71) was held remotely from 20 to 24 September 2021. Mr Laurent Parenté (Vanuatu) chaired the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas represented the IHO.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim, emphasized that this was the second session of the Committee held remotely and that this year's World Maritime theme is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future", to highlight the professionalism, dedication, and personal sacrifice of seafarers throughout the pandemic that have kept global supply chains moving. He stressed the expectation on significant decisions regarding: the adoption of a forward-looking strategy for IMO's technical cooperation activities; the implementation of the integrated technical cooperation programme in a COVID and post-COVID world and the review of the regional presence scheme geographically and functionally.



IMO Secretary-General K. Lim Chair, IHO Director Luigi Sinapi, TC71 Chair Laurent Parenté (Vanuatu), IMO Director TCCX. Zang, addressing the meeting.



The meeting was informed that the delivery of the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) activities during 2020 was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the cancellation or postponement of a number of activities. Several efforts were made to transition to virtual delivery methods, where possible, in a very short time frame. In 2020 the activities have achieved a 38% delivery rate. Eight-one Technical cooperation activities were delivered, training approximately 943 persons worldwide. In addition, another 99 fellows completed fellowships in the maritime field, including 22 fellowships at the World Maritime University (WMU) and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). Also, another 368 officials attended events aimed at developing and harmonizing regional strategies on maritime technical matters.

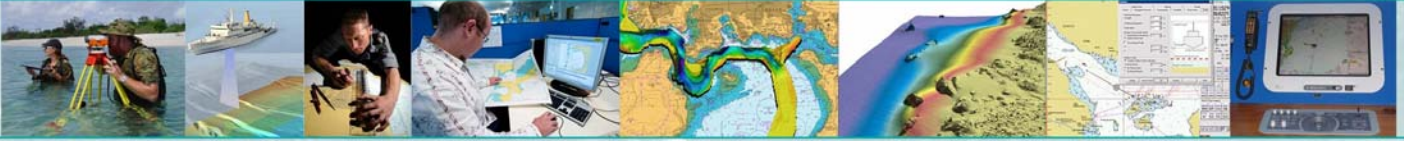
The Committee was also informed of the ongoing work on technology developments, which included the launch of the new IMO website in 2020 that presents TC activities in a more user-friendly format; the recent initiated project (TC Space) which aims to digitize the user experience with TC information and will assist the Secretariat with automating processes involved in coordinating and delivering TC activities. The TC Space platform will also allow an enhancement of TC related information available to the public via an online dashboard, as well as integrating TC Space with other IMO technological platforms.

On the Programme and Technical Cooperation (TC) Fund Allocation for 2022 and 2023, the regional programmes were guided by and aligned with the proposed Capacity-Building Decade Strategy, with its focus on assisting Member States to adopt, implement and comply fully with IMO instruments and achieve the maritime aspects of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee was advised of the recommendation for the allocation of \$14.8 million from the surplus of the Trading Fund to the TC Fund for 2022 and 2023. The TC Fund allocation was configured based on certain prioritization criteria under the respective regional and global programmes, taking into consideration emerging needs of Member States regarding technical assistance and other priorities. The overall allocation would cover 59% of the total ITCP requirement.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had, in the past, and will continue in the future, work with International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and other organizations such as IHO, IALA and International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds in the delivery of TC activities.

IHO Director Sinapi presented to the Committee the document related to the IHO-IALA-IMO progress in the cooperation of joint capacity-building activities in the field of safety of navigation, in the Caspian Sea for the benefit of the littoral states, that was noted by the Committee.

The Committee was updated on the development of SMART indicators for data collection and informed on the re-establishment of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to, in line with the IMO SDGs Strategy, continue with the development of SMART indicators, milestones and targets for data collection within IMO's mandate for technical cooperation, and to serve as performance indicators for IMO's technical cooperation work.



An independent evaluation of the Organization's ITCP activities was undertaken for the two biennia from 2016 to 2019 covering all assessable aspects of ITCP interventions, all ITCP activities and followed six evaluation criteria, namely, relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, as established by the United Nations Evaluation Group. The ITCP evaluation report highlighted eight lessons learned and suggested eight recommendations.

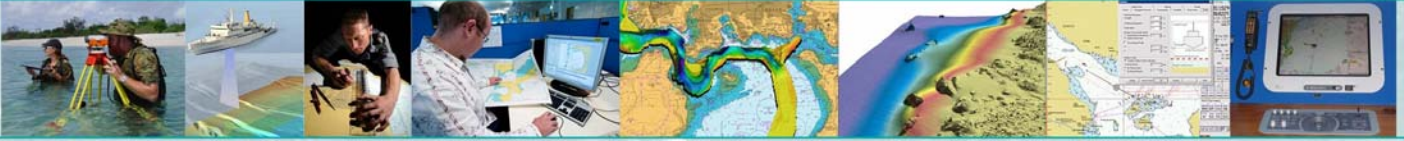
A long-term strategy on technical cooperation and capacity-building entitled "Capacity-Building Decade 2021-2030", for improving delivery of the ITCP and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the Organization's technical cooperation programmes was proposed. The strategy is intended to be an active document that would evolve taking into account the guidance of the Committee and any lessons learned and issues identified. Its primary objective is to set out an initial and broad road map to achieve IMO's mission and vision in the field of technical cooperation, as a vehicle for developing momentum.

The Meeting was informed on the technical cooperation activities and other events undertaken, facilitated and coordinated, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, under the IMO Regional Presence Scheme in Africa, East Asia and the Caribbean as well as through the IMO Technical Cooperation Officer (TCO) in the Pacific in 2020. The Regional Presence Offices (RPOs) also continued to be effective facilitators in the enhancement of the work of the various regional and national associations of women in maritime under the IMO gender programme.

The Meeting was also informed on the status of implementation of the global technical cooperation programme on the IMO Member State Audit Scheme that assist Member States to prepare for the audit with the provision of technical assistance, the identification of obstacles and the effective implementation of actions to address the findings of the audit and any related capacity-building. Since the establishment of this global programme in 2006, and up to June 2021, a total of 1,462 individuals from 162 Member States and Associate Members have been trained through 72 ITCP activities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, six training courses and workshops scheduled for 2020 and 2021 had been postponed. The Secretariat have been working with the World Maritime University (WMU) to develop an e-learning training course for IMSAS auditors that is expected to be finalized in 2021.

Regarding the agenda item "Capacity-Building: Strengthening the Impact of Women in the Maritime Sector" the Committee received six documents and two information papers and took note of the gender and capacity-building activities delivered through IMO's "Women in Maritime" programme since the beginning of 2020. The Secretariat, through the "Women in Maritime" programme, have continued to support its professional networks to improve gender balance in the shipping industry, as well as providing women from developing countries with access to high-level technical training on port management and operations.

The Committee also noted the information provided on the IHO-Canada – Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project, with the aim to initiate, organize and track a series of activities which will enable more women to participate equitably in the field of hydrography and to assume more leadership roles within the hydrographic community. The IHO work plan for 2021-2024 was also noted and the link between the EWH project and other IMO-sponsored initiatives in line with the UN SDG #5 Gender equality was acknowledged. IMO



coastal States that are not yet IHO Members can join the project by approaching the IHO Secretariat directly or through the 15 IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

The Meeting was also informed on the main activities undertaken by the World Maritime University (WMU) and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute during 2020 related to governance and management, including the COVID-19 pandemic-related actions and the University's efforts to ensure the continued delivery of its academic programmes. Information was also provided on the fellowships granted by IMO for short and medium-term training courses at maritime training institutions namely, IMSSEA (Italy) and IPER (France), to participants from developing countries.

The Committee re-elected Mr Laurent Parenté (Vanuatu) as its Chair and Ms Mandana Mansoorian (Islamic Republic of Iran) as its Vice-Chair for 2022. The next session of the TC (TC 72) is tentatively scheduled for 17 to 21 October 2022.