

## **The Global Initiative: Building Government and Industry Cooperation**

### **AUTHORS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

As exploration and shipping patterns have evolved there is recognition of increased levels of oil spill risk in specific regions. In response to the increased risk, the IPIECA/IMO Global Initiative (GI) Programme is focusing on regions where these increased activities are having the biggest impact. These same regions tend to show a need for improved:

- Consistency in the application of international legislation;
- Effectiveness of regional agreements and national plans;
- Industry arrangements in order to minimize the likelihood of a significant incident and to mitigate the consequences.

The overall objective of the Global Initiative is to strengthen the cooperation between government and industry on oil spill related issues and to improve the capacity of countries to protect their marine and coastal environment and resources through the full implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC).

Three active and functional “Level 2” GI regional programmes have been established between 2003–13, covering (i) the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Central Eurasia, (ii) West, Central and Southern Africa and (iii) South East Asia.

2014 was also the year of the launch of a “Level 1” GI programme for coastal China. In September, the first International Oil Spill Response Technical Seminar was held in Yantai, and was followed by an IMO OPRC Level 3 training course.

As a result of increased oil and gas activity, IPIECA and IMO have identified East Africa as a potential region for future GI activities. In late 2014, IPIECA commissioned a consultant to complete a report outlining the existing level of oil spill risk from upstream and shipping activities, and to assess the existing preparedness and resource capabilities of government and industry within the region.

IPIECA members are also considering the possibility of some “Level 1” GI activities in the Mediterranean, which may be set up in 2015.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Oil spills remain one of the most serious environmental risks for the oil and shipping industries as the environment and livelihoods may be significantly affected in the event of an incident. Although large spills from tankers and oil industry operations have become less frequent in the last few decades, accidents still happen and, because of their potential impact, they represent a significant risk that must be effectively managed. While prevention is always the ultimate goal, the oil industry gives equally high priority to developing capability to respond to spills.

IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues ([www.ipieca.org](http://www.ipieca.org)), works with the oil and gas industry to harness the collective expertise and technology to facilitate improvements in oil spill preparedness and response around the world.

IPIECA has played a key role in initiating and facilitating industry forums to share oil spill preparedness and response good practice. Activities stem primarily from the work of IPIECA’s Oil

Spill Working Group. Formed in 1987, the Group aims to improve oil spill preparedness and response around the world by:

- Enabling the industry and its partners to improve oil spill preparedness and response around the world
- Informing global policy and external stakeholders pro-actively and credibly on oil spill related issues
- Monitoring, assessing, and (where necessary) responding to oil spill related developments



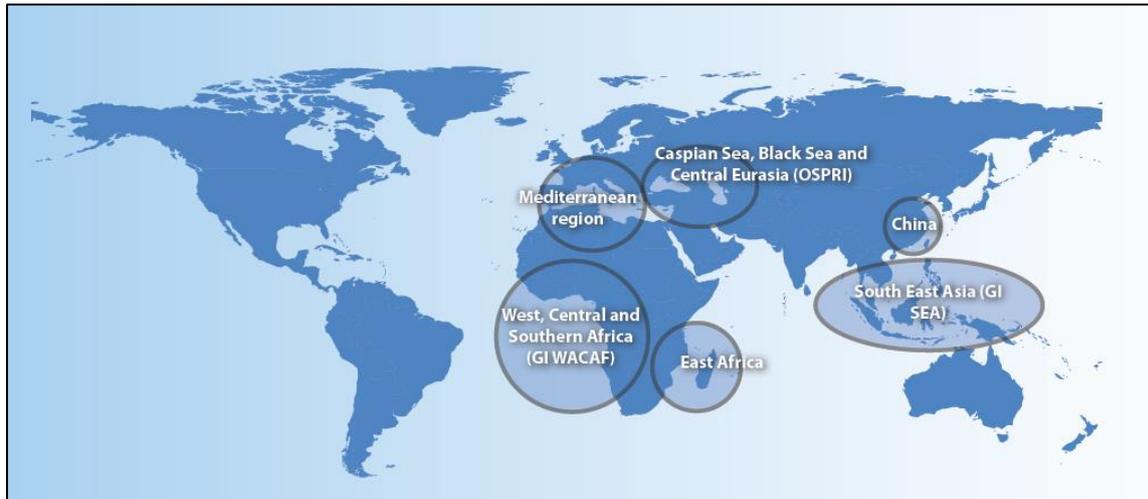
### THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Experience has demonstrated that cooperation and integration between all relevant organizations provides the best framework for preparedness. This is clearly demonstrated in the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC). The International Maritime Organization (IMO, the UN agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships; [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)), IPIECA and others have been working together for over 20 years to encourage governments to ratify and implement the OPRC convention, with industry involvement and support. The joint efforts of the IMO and IPIECA were formalized as the **Global Initiative (GI)** in 1996.

The GI is an umbrella programme under which governments, through the IMO, and the oil industry, through IPIECA, are working together to assist countries in developing national structures and capability for oil spill preparedness and response. The GI programme is jointly led by the IMO and IPIECA, with strong participation from the International Tankers Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), industry-funded Tier 3 oil spill centres (strategically sited response centres that hold large quantities of specialized resources, held in readiness to respond to a spill), as well as the leveraged contributions of the industry members themselves.

GI organizes educational workshops, exercises and training courses to improve oil spill response capability in higher risk areas. It has also promoted and enabled:

- Ratification and implementation of the relevant international conventions;
- Identification of responsible government agencies in charge of oil spill preparedness and response at national level;
- Approval of more national oil spill contingency plans (NOSCP) and regional plans; and,
- Improved communications between government and industry at national and regional levels



**Figure 1: Localization of the different Global Initiatives**

Today, four different regions have established programmes and IPIECA has identified two other regions that could potentially benefit from GI activities, as shown in Figure 1.

Level 2 programmes: *Implementation of GI activities in conjunction with the IMO and other partners using a planned, budgeted process with focus on regional activities, with autonomous funding provided by local industry and key international partners*

- Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Central Eurasia (OSPRI)
- West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF)
- South East Asia (GI SEA)

Level 1 programmes: Sustainable base level programme to build and/or maintain preparedness on a global scale

- China

Potential future GI programmes:

- Mediterranean
- East Africa

The OSPRI, GI WACAF and GI SEA are all Level 2 GI programmes and each have their own project manager, who helps build local capacity and political will for the development and implementation of effective contingency plans. It should be noted that each of these programmes has evolved separately, and therefore there are some differences in how the programmes operate, but the aims and objectives are aligned. Experiences gained and results attained in one GI regional group are good examples that can be replicated elsewhere at both the national and regional levels.

#### **Caspian, Black Sea and Central Eurasia – OSPRI**

The Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) was established by eight companies under the IPIECA umbrella in 2003, with an emphasis on participation from the regions' business units. Since then, excellent relations with governmental regional bodies (the Black Sea Commission and the Caspian Environment Programme) have been established, bringing clear and recognized support to the development of sustainable oil spill preparedness and response. A more in-depth description of OSPRI is provided in the paper: *Global Initiative: Recent oil spill preparedness developments in the Caspian Sea*; Peter Taylor, OSPRI Manager, IPIECA

#### **Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF)**

The GI WACAF Project was launched in 2006 and is jointly funded by nine oil company members and the IMO. The project's mission is to strengthen the national oil spill response capability in 22 West, Central and Southern African countries through the establishment of local partnerships between the oil industries and the national authorities in charge of oil spill preparedness and response at national level. A more in-depth description of GI WACAF is provided in the paper: *Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Capability in West, Central and Southern Africa: Responding to new challenges across the region*; Anton Rhodes, Project Manager - Global Initiative for West, Central, and Southern Africa, OSRL

### **Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GI SEA)**

Throughout 2012 IPIECA and IMO worked with international and regional partners, culminating with the launch of the Global Initiative for South East Asia (GI SEA) in March 2013. This recent development stands out as major commitment from both industry and government to improve oil spill preparedness and response in the region. Some of the issues identified in South East Asia include increased shipping traffic, increased exploration and production activities, a lack of consistency in the application of international legislation, effectiveness of regional agreements, and the effectiveness of national plans. A more in-depth description of GI SEA is provided in the paper: *Global Initiative for Southeast Asia: The Journey Towards Regional Cooperation in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in ASEAN*; Joselito Guevarra, Project Manager-Global Initiative for Southeast Asia, IPIECA/IMO

### **GI China**

In July 2007, IMO, IPIECA, and China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) signed a "Statement of Intent" with a goal to improve and sustain the oil spill preparedness and response capabilities of China and to enhance cooperation between government and industry. In June 2012, a meeting was held in Qingdao, China to discuss the key challenges in the preparedness and response to marine oil spills and to determine whether there was continued interest in establishing a GI China Programme. At this first IMO, IPIECA and China MSA meeting, more than 70 delegates attended. The meeting focused on oil spill preparedness and response in China and there was agreement that China may benefit from a GI Level 1 programme.

These discussions continued, and led to the GI China Level 1 programme being officially launched in May 2014. The first activities under the framework of the GI China programme took place in Yantai in September 2014. This consisted of the first International Oil Spill Response Technical Seminar and an IMO OPRC Level 3 training course. Based on the rich dialogue and good attendance at both the seminar and training course, further activities will be planned for 2015 under the framework of the GI China.

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE GI PROGRAMMES**

### **Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean Sea is amongst the world's busiest waterways accounting for 15 per cent of global shipping activity by number of calls and 10 per cent by vessel deadweight tonnes (DWT). In 2006, 13,000 merchant ships made 252,000 port calls totalling 3.8bn DWT at Mediterranean ports. Around 80 per cent of Mediterranean ports are located in the west and central Mediterranean region. The future development of new export routes for crude oil from the Caspian region, the development of new pipelines bypassing the Bosphorus and the expansion of current pipeline capacity is likely to result in a significant increase in the density of tanker deployment in the eastern Mediterranean by over 2000 voyages per annum. In addition, there is a significant increase in oil/gas exploration activity with several major oil companies committed to seismic surveys and the drilling of exploration wells in the offshore waters of countries bordering many of the Mediterranean

countries. If these developments continue and are successful, this will lead to further potential oil spill sources in an already congested region.

Upon consideration of increased activities in the region and their attendant levels of potential risk, and the range of national and regional oil spill response capabilities, the IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group has concluded that the situation may conducive to the establishment of a formal Global Initiative, i.e., GI Med, and is currently exploring options. IPIECA will continue discussions on this topic in 2015.

### **East Africa**

East Africa has also been identified as a region with a rapidly evolving oil spill risk profile. With this in mind, and building upon the demonstrated success of the other established GI efforts, the possibility of creating a GI programme for East Africa is under consideration. As a first step, IPIECA commissioned an internal oil spill preparedness desk study, where the primary objective was to ascertain the current state of preparedness in five specified countries within the region, as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: East Africa countries covered by the study**

The study area is one of long-standing existing shipping risks, including transport of over 30% of the world's marine crude oil cargoes. The Upstream petroleum industry has been very active in the region over recent years, with hydrocarbon discoveries and significant activity in new exploration acreage, both offshore and onshore. Regulatory uncertainties are prevalent. Cost pressures and competition are increasingly being felt as host governments welcome bidders who are perceived to 'interfere' less in terms of environment and social issues.

The marine and terrestrial ecological sensitivities within the region are acknowledged and widespread, but often data-deficient. There are many areas with high biological diversity and abundance, including important wetland (e.g. mangrove) habitats and coral reefs, each with their associated fisheries, marine and bird life. Local economies throughout the region rely heavily on its natural capital, evidenced by efforts to support sustainable development opportunities e.g. high value tourism.

If a major oil spill incident occurs within the region and is badly handled, with a response that is perceived to be poorly organized, there would likely be extremely negative publicity. This is true of most locations globally but the perception of a pristine and unspoilt environment within much of East Africa would exacerbate this outcome. The situation could be compounded by other challenges such as poor infrastructure and logistics and lack of access to fuel and/or electricity. Establishing improved oil spill preparedness could make a significant contribution to mitigating the consequences of potential spills, by facilitating improved coordination, management, planning and integration of local, regional and international response capability.

The context of current oil spill preparedness is one where significant work has been undertaken throughout the region, primarily under the aegis of international projects and donor agency programmes. This has created a framework of national and regional contingency planning on paper, which requires implementation in order to demonstrate robust and sustainable preparedness and response capability. Indications are that past international community support to oil spill preparedness efforts may continue.

The IPIECA study concludes that options do indeed exist to consider an East Africa GI. Potential actions and activities stemming from existing projects are readily available and could be developed into a GI work programme. The final report is scheduled for completion in Q1 2015. IPIECA members will then discuss the findings of the report and the potential establishment of a GI East Africa at their next face to face meeting in London, May 2015.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Since its establishment in 1996, the Global Initiative has promoted and achieved significant improvements and a level of sustainability in terms of oil spill preparedness, response and environmental risk management in a variety of regions. Thanks to the close working relationships with key stakeholders, IPIECA and IMO have succeeded in implementing Level 2 GI programmes in West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF), the Caspian and Black Seas (OSPRI), South East Asia (GI SEA), and more recently have launched a Level 1 GI programme in China.

These initiatives have helped establish National Oil Spill Contingency Plans (NOSCP) and functional cooperation agreements, implemented through a significant number of training & exercising activities, workshops and conferences in the relevant countries and regions. The results have been measurable and positive.

IPIECA and IMO will continue to examine the value the Global Initiative model has been able to provide with respect to enhanced oil spill preparedness and response. This may include new areas able to benefit from structured GI programmes, e.g. East Africa or the Mediterranean. The existing GI regional successes provide a solid experience upon which to base future GI activities around the world.