

Annex 3-1.

Introduction of North Pacific Coast Guard Forum and Establishment of Emergency Response Working Group

1. Background

The North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) was initiated in 2000 as a venue to foster multilateral cooperation through the sharing of information on matters related to combined operations, exchange of information, illegal drug trafficking, maritime security, fisheries enforcement, and illegal migration. The current membership includes agencies from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States.



The first Forum was held in Tokyo, Japan in 2000 and has followed an alternating semi-annual cycle of technical experts meetings and principal summits. The NPCGF has achieved clear successes in the areas of combined operations and fisheries law enforcement.

2. NPCFG Meeting

According to the first NPCGF meeting agreement, the NPCGF activities are planned and approved during two meetings held each year. The Experts Meeting takes place in March and focuses on the development of operations, plans and multilateral initiatives. The September Summit Meeting allows organization heads and experts to review, discuss, modify and approve proposals emerging from the March Experts Meeting.

NPCGF events allow participants to strengthen relationships through formal activities such as plenary meetings and working group discussions, and through less formal activities such as meals. They allow member countries to experience first-hand the operational and administrative contexts of the host countries and thus build a better understanding of each other's differing imperatives and constraints.

3. NPCGF Working Group

The coordinated efforts of members continue to keep the North Pacific safe and navigable, enabling the maritime community to enjoy a peaceful, accessible, and clean environment in these waters. Furthermore, the Forum helps protect the North Pacific's fishery, through enforcement activities such as responding to natural disasters and major marine pollution, combating high-sea driftnet fishing, and monitoring illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing operations.

Six member countries operate six fields of the working group to achieve the following purposes of NPCGF:

- Maritime security WG lead by Japan;
- Information exchange WG lead by Russia;
- Illegal migration and drug trafficking WG lead by China;
- Fisheries enforcement WG lead by Canada;
- Combined operations WG lead by U.S.; and
- Emergency response WG lead by Korea

4. Establishment of Emergency Response Working Group

As natural or man-made marine disasters have recently increased dramatically in number and magnitude in the world, not to mention the North Pacific Region, the Republic of Korea proposed to establish a new working group regarding emergency response in 2009.

Necessity of cooperation among North Pacific Coast Guards in response to such disasters also increased through the U.S. Deepwater Horizon oil spill which occurred in 2010, and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

The North Pacific Coast Guard Forum decided to organize a new experts group, the "Emergency Response Working Group (ERWG)" in September, 2011, in order for members to work cooperatively in developing and implementing efficient and effective ways of preventing and responding to disasters.

5. Object of Emergency Response Working Group

The aim of ERWG is to be an effective forum for members to work cooperatively in developing and implementing measures to strengthen emergency response capabilities in the North Pacific region. The Objective and Scope of Tasks are as below;

• Objective

- Develop and implement measures to prepare for and respond to marine disasters in the North Pacific Region;
- Share examples of the best practices and lessons learned from them;
- Develop joint initiatives, exercises and procedures in cooperation with other NPCGF Working Groups;
- Establish framework for multinational response management;
- Improve and enhance the member's capabilities to respond to marine disasters;

• Scope of tasks

- natural disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes, typhoons, etc;
- marine pollution incidents by oil or hazardous and noxious substances (HNS);
- urgent issues including mutual concerns related to the above.

6. Activities of the First ERWG Meeting

The Emergency Response Working Group was initiated at the 13th NPCGF Expert Meeting held from the 19th to 23rd of March, 2012 in Xiamen, China. It organized 13 experts from each member countries' competence national authorities including Canadian Coast Guard, China MSA, Japan Coast Guard, Emergency Ministry of Russia and U.S. Coast Guard. Mr. Ha Changwoo from Korea Coast Guard was selected as the chairperson.

At a result of the first ERWG Meeting, the Terms of Reference suggested by Republic of Korea was developed and will be adopted at the 13th NPCGF Summit in September, 2012. Information on the international cooperation regime and current incident response cases are shared as below;

- **Case studies**

- The Gulf of Mexico oil spill incident (2010) by U.S.
- The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) by Japan

- **Current framework**

- Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) by Korea
- Canada and U.S. Joint Contingency Plan by Canada and U.S.
- Emergency Response Scheme of Russia by Russia



7. Future Work Plan

After discussion on emergency response, the member countries of the ERWG recognized the importance of international cooperation in responding to marine incidents and sharing information. And the meeting produced the mutual agreement as below;

- **Development and Approval of Work Plan and Terms of Reference**

- Identify list and prioritize tasks
- Approve the Work Plan and TOR at the Summit meeting

- **Information Exchange Continued**

- Sharing of disaster response schemes of each country
- Management of international assistance
- Case studies of recent incidents