

Meeting: International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 55)

Period: 9 Oct. to 13 Oct., 2006

Meeting place: Central Hall Westminster, London, UK (where the first assembly of UH was held in 1946)

Participants from NMRI

Mr. Koichi YOSHIDA:

Director, Centre for International Cooperation

Mr. Takashi NARUSE

Senior Researcher, Manufacture Technology Research Group, Structure and Materials Department

Mr. Eiichi MURAOKA

Senior Researcher, Centre for International Cooperation

Mr. Kohei MATSUO

Researcher, Manufacture Technology Research Group, Structure and Materials Department



Yoshida

Naruse

Matsuo



Yoshida

Muraoka



MEPC 55 Plenary meeting

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Yoshida participated to the Working Group on prevention of air pollution from ships. He expressed the view of Japan that world-wide uniform wash-water criteria should be developed. He contributed to establish a Correspondence Group to prepare the criteria for finalizing the criteria at the next session. He presented Japanese submission of data of CO₂ emission from ships. He contributed the establishment of tentative format of data-base of CO₂ emission from ships, based on the Japanese submission of data, to be used in GISIS. He coordinate with Norway, Germany and Denmark to push the up-date work of IMO GHG report (MEPC 45/8). Japan proposed draft term of reference of the work. MEPC 55 is inviting members to submit comments to the draft to MEPC 56. He expressed, at the Plenary, that MEPC should consider risk evaluation factor and criteria for marine environment protection in FSA (Formal Safety Assessment) in document MEPC 55/18. MEPC agreed this view and is inviting members to submit comments on this regard to MEPC 56.

Mr. Naruse and Mr. Matsuo participated to the Working Group on Ship Recycling (Agenda Item 3). They contributed to develop draft Guidelines for the Development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, which was submitted as a joint proposal of Japan and Germany (MEPC 55/3/1), and the other three Japanese submissions. Matsuo, before MEPC 55, visited and investigated ship recycling yards in China, Bangladesh and Turkey.

Mr. Muraoka participated in discussion on wash-water criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems in the Working Group on prevention of air pollution from ships. He contributed to establish a Correspondence Group on wash-water criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems in cooperate with other Parties. Muraoka also participated to the Ballast water treatment examination group, and contributed for approval of proposed Japanese system of ballast-water treatment.

MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

Recycling of ships

The Committee considered the text of the draft International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships based on the document MEPC 55/3/2 (Norway) and the result was organized in the document (MEPC 55/WP.9). The main results are as follows.

Regarding the draft Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, the committee noted the information on the practical difficulty for existing ships and appreciated the renewal offer from Japan and Germany to finalize these guidelines to submit to the next session. And regarding the regulation on control of recycling facility, there had been an extensive debate during which Japan had informed its intention to submit a complete draft guideline on ship recycling facility to the next session. Finally, the Committee agreed to hold an Intersessional Working Group on Ship Recycling a few weeks prior to MEPC 56 to develop further the draft Convention and the draft Guidelines.

Wash-water Criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems

As of development of wash-water criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems, the Committee considered documents MEPC 55/4/5 (UK) and MEPC 55/4/7 (Finland and Norway) and a joint proposal on the basis of the submitted documents developed by an informal meeting among the authors.

The Working Group on prevention of air pollution from ships agreed that the development of global wash-water criteria could benefit from intersessional work done by a Correspondence Group. The Committee approved the establishment of the Correspondence Group on wash-water criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems based on the request of the Working Group and approved the following terms of reference of the Correspondence Group.

Terms of Reference:

The Correspondence Group is instructed to:

1. Taking account of documents MEPC 55/4/5 (UK) and MEPC 55/4/7 (Finland and Norway), develop wash-water criteria for exhaust gas SO_x cleaning systems in accordance with resolution MEPC. 130 (53) Guideline for Exhaust Gas -SO_x Cleaning Systems- MARPOL ANNEX VI, Regulation 14 (4) (b), including:
 - a) Wash-water assessment-reference method
 - b) Wash-water monitoring in service
2. In light of above, clarify inconsistencies with MEPC. 130 (53)
3. Submit a written report to MEPC 56.

Emission of green house gases (GHG) from ships

Japan, India, Norway and Republic of Korea submitted data of CO₂ emission from ships which were gathered according to the interim guidelines of MEPC/Circ.471. The data should be used for the review of the interim guidelines at MEPC 58. The Working Group of prevention of air pollution from ships established a tentative format of data-base of CO₂ emission from ships, based on the Japanese submission of data, to be used in GISIS. Japan coordinated with Norway, Germany, and Denmark to push the up-date work of IMO GHG report (MEPC 45/8), and proposed draft term of reference of the work. MEPC 55 is inviting members to submit comments to the draft to MEPC 56.

On-shore electric power supply to ships in port

MEPC, while realizing that on-shore electric power supply to ships in port would be beneficial to reduce air pollution from ships, agreed not to initiate any revision work on MARPOL ANNEX VI until ISO/TC8 develops relevant ISO standards for such power supply.

International Convention for Ballast Water Management

The following 6 guidelines are considered at this session. The Committee adopted 5 guidelines without the Guidelines G13 and agreed to instruct BLG 11 to consider further and to request BLG 11 to submit the final draft of G13 to MEPC 56 for adoption

G1: Guidelines for sediment reception facilities

G5: Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities

G11: Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction standards

G12: Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships

G14: Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange

G13: Guidelines for additional measures regarding ballast water management including emergency situations

According to the Ballast Water Management Convention, Ballast Water Management systems (BWMS) must be approved by the Administration taking into account Guidelines developed by the IMO. In addition, BWMSs which make use of Active Substances shall be approved by the IMO, based on a procedure developed by the Organization. At this session, the Committee agreed to give Basic Approval for Japanese and Swedish BWMSs which make use of Active Substances. The approved Japanese system makes use of Ozone and is developed by Japan Association of Maritime Safety. The approved Swedish system is an electrochemical device which generates hydroxyl radicals, free radicals and hydrogen. Both approved BWMSs are expected to be carried out type approved test in both countries for Final approval.

The Committee reviewed technological availability of BWMSs using the information provided by many member states including Japan. And the Committee discussed possible legal options in case appropriate technologies may not be available to meet the effective dates for the D-2 standard, taking into consideration of the proposal which is proposed to postpone the application date for one year, which was submitted by International Chamber of Shipping at MEPC 54. Some members expressed views that the application date should be amended, considering the situation that BWMSs has not approved yet and the installation of BWMSs on ships already contracted to be built in or after 2009 may not be feasible, while some members are against because BWMSs would probably be available for installation prior to the first application date and expressed concerns that amendments may provide adverse message in environment protection views. As a result, the Committee could not reach the agreement at this session and it will be discussed further at the next session.

Amendment of mandatory instruments

(1) Amendments to MARPOL Annex I

The Committee adopted the amendments to Regulation 1.11 of the Annex I of MARPOL, which add the Southern South African waters as a new Special Area. The amendment will be entry into the force on 1 March 2008.

(2) Amendments to MARPOL Annex III

The Committee adopted the amendments of MARPOL Annex III that introduce new categorization criteria for packages containing a harmful substance based on the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). This amendment changes the requirements of labelling which should be labeled and marked based on GHS (the detailed are provided in revised IMDG Code (MSC.122(75)) and it also add requirements of PSC inspection for ships when in an off-shore terminal similarly when in a port. This amendment and revised IMDG will be entry into the force in 1 January 2010.

(3) Amendments to the Condition Assessment Scheme

The Committee adopted the amendments to the Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS) that provides clear considerable items during thickness measurement procedure and clear procedures when a ship changes its flag during CAS survey, which amendments are originally proposed by Japan based on research by National Maritime Research Institute of Japan.

The amendments will be entry into the force in 1 May 2008.

Formal Safety Assessment

Japan expressed, at the Plenary, that MEPC should consider risk evaluation factor and criteria for marine environment protection in FSA (Formal Safety Assessment) in document MEPC 55/18. MEPC agreed this view and is inviting members to submit comments on this regard to MEPC 56.

Next Meeting Schedule

MEPC 56 will be held from 9 to 13 of July 2007.

MEPC 57 and MEPC 58 are tentatively scheduled in March and October 2008 respectively.