

# Oil Spill India 2016 promotes 'Clean & Green India'

- Arunima Sathe & Abhijeet Shinde



There are thousands of oil and chemical spills in coastal waters around India every year. The causes of these spills range from small ship collisions to fuel transfer

mishaps, leakages from offshore construction platforms, to massive spill events. Oil Spill India (OSI), known for its rigorous work in this field, organised their 4th Annual Conference at the plush JW Marriott Hotel in Mumbai to highlight the global concerns on protection of the marine environment.

The exclusive two-day conference — held on August 11 and 12 — focused on commitment towards preserving the marine environment and synergic efforts using technology to combat the aftermath of disasters. Representatives from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Directorate General of Shipping, Indian Coast Guard, ONGC, IOCL, BPCL, IMO, ITOF, IOPC Fund, International Salvage Union, P&I club, OSROs, OEMs & related sectors, encompassing entire Oil & Gas + maritime industry, were amongst the participants.

The Chief Guest for the event was Lt Gen NC Marwah PVSM, AVSM (Retired), Member NDMA. Guests of Honour were Deepak Shetty, DG and Capt LK Panda (NA to GoI) from the Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India; TK Sengupta and AK Dwivedi, Directors, ONGC; Capt Ashok Mahapatra, Director-Maritime Safety Committee, IMO; IG VSR Murthy, PTM, TM DDG, (Operations and Coastal Security), Indian Cost Guard; and AK Gupta, Managing Director, Indian Ports Global Pvt Ltd.

The congress kick-started with an inspiring opening address by Capt Sandeep Kalita, Global Brand Ambassador & Co-Chairman, OSI 2016. "India is at a critical juncture in the development/implementation of our National Oil Spill Response Policy where 'synergy' is crucial for crafting a win-win solution for all involved which will ultimately ensure effective Marine Environmental Protection. Today, Oil Spill



India is one of the world's top conference and exhibition on spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration systems that has over the years created a global forum. A unique event hosted in India which has been a frontrunner in addressing the impacts of spills at national and international level," he averred.

In his welcome address, Conference Chairman OSI 2016 — AK Hazarika, former CMD & Director Onshore, ONGC Ltd, said this conference was an excellent forum to discuss issues of oil spill. He said oil spill can occur both on land and sea while oil spill on land can be mitigated comparatively easily, containing offshore oil spill is much more difficult. He appreciated the support of ONGC that had remained the main sponsor of OSI since inception.

Mr Gupta highlighted the growth of OSI over the years, before talking about the negative effects of spills on the environment. "In India, oil spill cases have seen an increase along with crude production. OSI has grown over the years and has updated the industry about the measures through which we can fight spills. Marine oil spill pollution creates ecological imbalances and is dangerous to our society," he said.

Capt Ashok Mahapatra said, "Over 90% of global trade moves through shipping. Without shipping, the world's economy would come to a halt. Ships are run by humans, so accidents are bound to occur. What we should be concerned about is how well we are prepared to handle situations."

Inspector General VSR Murthy commented on the theme of the seminar — Commitment, Synergy and Excellence. "An event of this magnitude will go a long way in addressing the issue of oil spills. We have advanced a lot technologically, and we will keep updating ourselves in oil spill maritime response. This forum will discuss many such issues on a broader scale," he said.

Highlighting the need to have a systemic approach to crises was Mr Deepak Shetty, "We need systematic human resource training that needs to be tested and audited and constantly monitored. We should look



at breakthrough technology that is in use around the world," he suggested.

Capt Sandeep Kalia then unveiled a special video message from Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, echoing his support and best wishes for OSI 2016. Mr Gadkari emphasised: "Swachh Bharat, Pradushan Mukt Bharat' as a prime motive, and reducing air and water pollution in India is a key objective."

Chief Guest, Lt Gen Marwah spoke of the countless challenges faced by the maritime sector. "Incidents of oil spill are detrimental to the interests of the industry. A collaborating and synergic approach is required to combat these. This conference will discuss the careful management of oil spills and water resources for our sustainable future," he said.

A special edition of the OSI 2016 newsletter & show catalogue was launched by the Chief Guest at the event.



Abhishekh Bhatnagar, CEO, ITEN Media, delivered the vote of thanks. This was followed by inauguration of the exhibition.

The opening high level panel discussion focused on global initiatives taken by the industry. The panellists were Capt Mahapatra, IG Murthy, Capt LK Panda, Mr Sengupta, AK Dwivedi, Director (Exploration), ONGC Limited, Dr Karen Purnell, MD, ITOFF, Jose Maura, Director, IOPC Funds and Darren Waterman, Regional Director (Asia Pacific), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). Topics discussed were E-Governance, E-Learning, the Nairobi Convention, the Wreck Removal Convention, and "Zero tolerance for spills".

Capt Panda spoke about the Merchant Shipping Bill which will soon come into force with the support of the Parliament and the Government.

The first technical session highlighted global best practises and stakeholder integration. The session chaired by TK Sengupta, had Commandant R. Vijay, Indian Coast Guard, Jon Lay, IPIECA (Former Chairman OSRL) and Arti Chopra, Spill Response Specialist, OSRL. It brought to light the threat of spills, global industry response groups, modelling and visualisation of spills and the roles of stakeholders. "There is no second chance in spill disasters," said Mr Sengupta in his speech.

Capt Sunil Thapar, CEO, Allcargo Shipping, chaired the second technical session in which emerging risks in the Marine Environment were discussed. Panellists were Dr Karen and Alaknanda Dubey, Executive Engineer (Environment), Corporate HSE, ONGC Limited. Speakers discussed demand on resources, economics, the protection of the environment and political uncertainties.

"A lot is being done but a lot still needs to be done," said Capt Thapar, during the discussion.

The third technical session was on preparedness, training and response capabilities and was chaired by Darren Waterman. The speakers were: Jose Miguel Rios — Emergency Management Specialist, Marine Scientist Polaris Applied Sciences, INC, who spoke on RETOS to achieve international benchmarks for spill preparedness; Trond Gulbrandsøy, International Sales Manager, Allmaritim AS, who spoke on a cost efficient oil spill response strategy; Capt Kuldeep Singh, VP Technical Services, Gallagher Marine Systems LLC, who covered contingency planning and preparedness; Geeva Varghese, External Engagement Advisor (APAC), OSRL, who spoke on assessing response capability using a tiered preparedness and response approach.

The final technical session for the day was chaired by Mr Lay, with the theme 'Disaster management — spill response and mitigation'. The speakers were Mr Waterman, who covered invention technology for subsea well incidents; Dr Stephane Le Floch, Research Department Manager, (CEDRE), who spoke on the Sundarban oil spill in Bangladesh; Michael Green Lauridsen, Segment Director Oil Spill Response APAC, DESMI, Singapore, Pte Ltd, who brought to light the latest in proven oil spill technology, and Capt DC Shekar, Director, AlphaMERS Ltd, who spoke about the role of responders.

The day concluded with an open question-answer forum where the audience shared their observations with the Advisory board of OSI 2016.

The Gala entertaining evening and dinner, with a very absorbing classical flute performance and astounding

acts from a renowned Mentalist were the icing on the cake, post serious deliberations of the day.

The second day commenced with a high level panel discussion on Oil Pollution & Natural Disasters - Awareness Communication & Engagement, moderated by Capt Kalia, with Capt LK Panda; Capt H. Khatri, NA, MMB; Dr Rath – Director Petrofed; Capt Rajesh Tandon, MD-V.Ships & Jan Fransen, ED, Green Award foundation as panellists. The key takeaways were creating awareness in society, capacity building, training & setting high standards for prevention of pollution in any form.

The fifth technical session, chaired by VV Surya Rau, had the theme “Emerging technology-spill detection & Surveillance”. Prasad SJ spoke on the operational oil spill trajectory prediction system. Brend Freibott, Head of Global EHS/Sustainability Consulting Unit, discussed safety management and incident management. Krishna Kishor, Scientist, ISRO, spoke on monitoring spills in the Indian maritime zone with technical support.

The sixth session was on Environmental damage: Assessment & Remediation. Banwari Lal, Senior Director, Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology, elaborated on bioremediation, a process that uses naturally occurring micro-organisms for remediation, during his presentation.

Technical session seven focused on salvage and wreck removal. Speakers from SMIT and Resolve Salvage, Swire Emergency Response & Mubarak Marine presented concerted efforts by salvors & response agencies.

Session eight on Regulatory, Legal, Funding and Insurance was chaired by Jose Maura, Director, IOPC Fund. DIG Donny Michael, Chief Staff Officer (Ops), Coast Guard Commander, Western Seaboard,



Mumbai; Mr Thomas, IOPC Fund; Joel Cockerell, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co, and Tony Paulson, Director, The West of England (P&I Club), shared valued perspectives on funding & insurance.

This was followed by the valedictory session comprising of Conference Chairman Mr Hazarika, Mr KR Sachar, Soli Engineer, Surendra Jagtap, Jose Maura (IOPC), Capt Shyam Jairam, and moderated by Capt Sandeep Kalia. The entire two-day conference was well summarised by the panellists, action points highlighted, followed by a vote of thanks by the Global Brand Ambassador.

The two-day event was sensational, informative, with thought provoking deliberations, houseful attendance, loads of takeaways, global perspectives shared, and appreciation from the world community for hosting such a mega congress on Indian soil.

Maritime Matrix Today and The Marex Bulletin were the media partners of the event.

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