



Communiqué

International Regulators' Forum Maintains Focus on Offshore Safety at the Annual General Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand

25 October 2016

The 2016 International Regulators' Forum (IRF) held its 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 18-20 October 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand. The AGM, hosted by WorkSafe New Zealand, was attended by representatives from nine countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Discussions highlighted shared concerns and good practices amongst the countries, including: decommissioning, life extension, data analysis and sharing, bolt failures, regulator training, and maintaining safe operations in a low oil price environment.

In 2015, three working groups were established to focus on key areas of technical collaboration reflecting shared organizational priorities in performance measures, asset integrity, and culture. Each workgroup provided a status report on their efforts.

- **Performance Measures** – Recognizing the benefit of using definitions understood by industry to uniformly capture data regarding major incidents, the workgroup will conduct a pilot program to gather and analyze barrier and causal factors information using a standard barrier definition. Expected results of this study will be used to develop a longer term strategy for data collection, analysis, and use.
- **Asset Integrity** – Recognizing the need to maintain safe operations in a low oil price environment, the workgroup developed a draft inspection template for consideration by the members. The template will be piloted with the North Sea regulators. Other IRF members will evaluate the template for potential use in their respective jurisdictions. The workgroup will monitor the use and results.
- **Culture** – The IRF continues to share interest to better evaluate the existence of a culture of safety within industry and individual operators. The workgroup has identified a suite of indicators that may be helpful in evaluating cultural strength and weakness. Members will reach out to industry for feedback on the current indicators to facilitate further assessment on the validity and usability of the tool. The workgroup is considering a workshop in conjunction with the 2017 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, Texas.

The IRF also decided to reestablish a Standards workgroup to continue engagement with standards developing organizations. The purpose of the group will be to help identify gaps in global standards that may require further engagement with those organizations.

Members also recognized the mounting obligations on industry regarding decommissioning and concluded that ongoing dynamic communications are necessary between members on this topic. The IRF will maintain focus on this matter.

Members discussed the continuing need for coordination on research involving safe offshore operations. IRF members agreed to include in their country profiles relevant projects for general awareness with appropriate links back to their home websites. The IRF website, <http://www.irfoffshoresafety.com>, will be enhanced to provide offshore safety information, including safety alerts from member jurisdictions.

Members agreed to implement an information and outreach strategy. Monthly articles on topics central to the current offshore oil and gas environment will be published on the IRF website.

Members noted the value of international collaboration and developed a framework to enhance information sharing and capability development.

The IRF members will hold a mid-year meeting at the 2017 Offshore Technology Conference in May in Houston, TX. All Workgroups will provide an update on progress of their projects at the meeting.

The 2017 AGM will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The 2018 IRF Offshore Safety Conference and AGM are tentatively scheduled for September in Aberdeen, Scotland.

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