

## **IRF Annual General Meeting**

Cancun, Mexico, 18-21 November 2014

## Summary of discussions and action points

Participants:

Australia

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Canada

Daniel Chicoyne C-NLOPB
Scott Tessier C-NLOPB
Stuart Pinks C-NSOPB
Eric Theriault C-NSOPB

Denmark

Peter Ronberg Hansen DEA Katrine Krone DEA

Mexico

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Jimena Marvan ASEA
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Norway

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**New Zealand** 

Brett Murray WorkSafe New Zealand Wayne Vernon WorkSafe New Zealand

The Netherlands

Roel van de Lint SSM Vincent Claessens SSM

**United Kingdom** 

Wendy Kennedy HSE Susan Mackenzie HSE

**United States** 

Brian Salerno BSEE
Lars Herbst BSEE
Doug Morris BSEE



#### **MINUTES:**

## **Welcome and Introduction** CNH (Mexico) President-Commissioner Juan Carlos Zepeda delivered the opening remarks and welcomed the IRF members to the Conference. **Review of Minutes and Action Points** 1 Canada led the session, which reviewed the previous minutes, provided an update on progress, and proposed an agenda for this meeting. Reviewed notes and updates from October 2013 IRF AGM in Perth It was indicated that the IRF website should be ready Reviewed notes and updates from 2014 midyear meeting at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston (May) Mexico 2 Representatives from Mexico's CNH and ASEA presented updates on regulatory changes in Mexico's energy sector. They indicated that under the reforms, ASEA will represent Mexico in the IRF. **Confirming and Moving Forward IRF's Agenda** 3 There was a discussion on the IRF's vision and strategic agenda that incorporated outcomes from the Vancouver and Perth conferences. There was agreement that the IRF provides an important mechanism for sharing information. The meeting also recognized that IRF members would benefit even more from sharing information on a regular basis during the year, and not just at the Annual General Meeting. There was also agreement that the IRF needed to ensure that its work focused on highpriority issues and deliverables due to the limited resources of the members. There was a general consensus that members should review the current management structure of the IRF to ensure that it meets the needs of the organization. A strategic working group will develop a draft mission vision statement for the membership to consider at the 2015 AGM. **Topics of Interest** Summaries of 2013 Performance Indicators and Risk Evaluation and Mitigation were presented to the group. The group also engaged in a discussion on how member regulators

could increase their data and information sharing, and prioritize their resources and



activities based on risk.

The meeting discussed the need to increase information sharing between members. Although the annual meetings provide an excellent forum to exchange data and lessons learned, a more comprehensive approach is needed to ensure that safety information can be transmitted throughout the year. The options that were discussed include:

- Upgrades to the IRF website
- An improved system for sharing safety alerts that each regulator generates
- More consistent definitions and templates to facilitate the transfer of data

BSEE agreed to host the IRF website, and BSEE will provide information on the BTS near-miss program to IRF regulators.

**Presentation: 2013 Performance Indicators** 

The IRF could improve its collection of international data in two main ways:

- Increased timeliness of sharing
- Increased consistency of definitions

#### **Presentation: Risk Evaluation and Mitigation**

- Update on improvements in BOP technology and monitoring systems
- BTS near-miss program will help to identify trends and indicators
- Information for the program would be collected from confidential reports
- The program could be a useful tool for sharing safety information internationally

## 5 IRF Offshore Safety Conference 2015, Washington DC

BSEE led the session on the 2015 IRF Conference, which reached the following conclusions:

- Conference is scheduled for two days in late October or early November
- Conference will take place in Washington, D.C.
- Tentative topic is Operationalizing Safety Culture.

# Pre-Discussion for Day 2 Meeting With Standard Development Organizations (ISO/API) and the Day 3 IRF/IADC/OGP Workshop

Preliminary discussions on standards to prepare for Day Two's discussions.

Discussion: Preparing for Session 10 and Session 11

IRF members talked about how to approach sessions on Day Two, how to make them productive, and what the group wanted to achieve:

Presentations on the role of industry standards compared to national standards and on the outcomes of the BSEE International Standards Conference in January 2014.

**Presentation: Outcome for OGP Workshop** 



- Review of operating company specification development strategy and management
- Review of trends in the use of government and industry standards

#### Presentation: Outcomes of BSEE International Standards Forum, January 2014

BSEE reported on the BSEE International Standards Conference. The 250 participants included including representatives from most IRF members. The participants reached three conclusions:

- There is a lack of data to verify the adequacy of most industry standards
- Standards need to be developed and revised more quickly, especially when issues are identified.
- More content related to lifecycle management of critical equipment is needed.

### 7 Joint IRF/IOPER Session Pre-Discussion (IRF Members Only)

Canada led the pre-discussion, which prepared members for the joint session.

#### Joint IRF/IOPER Session

The IRF AGM Chair and IOPER AGM Chair provided background to respective organizations and position on maintaining current structure and approach to interaction. Updates on respective focus areas were provided.

The meeting noted the observation that the model of *Separate organizations, strong affiliation* was sensible in the current context of IRF focus and deliberations in the coming 12 months.

A proposal to identify a common strategic theme for bringing focus to a joint session at the 2015 AGM was proposed by IRF and IOPER AGM Chairs. This proposal appeared to be supported.

#### O Topics of Interest

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HSE led a discussion on several of the topics of interest, as outlined in the conference agenda, including Pipeline Regulation and Aviation Safety. The meeting concluded that:

- Reducing maintenance is the same as reducing safety
- Risk-based maintenance reduces costs, but does not imply a reduction of safety
- It is important to maintain safety of operations as the price of oil fluctuates.

#### Presentation By Standard Development Organizations (ISO/API)

SSM led the session and discussion, during which API and ISO provided updates on their joint standards development activities, and SSM presented an OGP study on the use of standards by 14 regulators.

#### ISO and API Updates on Joint Standard Development



API and ISO reported that due to the presence of Iran on the ISO committees and potential issues related to trade sanctions, API and many oil countries have refused to participate on ISO standards committees during the past three years. Until the legal issues are resolved, API will continue to work independently on offshore standards.

ISO noted that the industry has focused most of its work on API standards, which has impacted the ISO program adversely.

API reported that it is taking steps to increase the input from the international community in its standards program. API provided a detailed breakdown of the standards that it has developed relating to well control, equipment reliability, and safety management systems.

#### Presentation: OGP Study on the Use of Standards by 14 Regulators (Presented by SSM)

Among the members, the UK has the most standards referenced in its regulations (289), followed by the US (202) and then Norway (183).

The US standards developing organizations (SDOs) are dominant in the offshore industry. More than 40% of all standards referenced by regulators are API standards or other US-based SDOs. Many of the existing ISO standards and Norwegian standards are based on API standards.

Of 1,100 standards that regulators reference, only 13 percent of them are referenced by more than one regulator.

Even in a small basin like the North Sea, there is no consistency in the use of standards. Of the 474 standards that are referenced by Denmark, the UK and Norway, only 9% are referenced by more than two of these regulators.

Only about 20% of the standards referenced by regulators are ISO documents, despite the 2011 agreement by the IRF on the need to move toward the use of more international standards.

#### **Discussion: Standards Development**

The meeting discussed the use of standards by IRF members. During the 2011 meeting the IRF agreed to encourage and support the development of ISO standards. The subsequent split between ISO and API has made this position related to ISO standards challenging.

Several members suggested that the objective should be to determine which standards were *equivalent* rather than attempting to agree on the use of specific international standards.

#### Joint IRF/IADC/OGP Workshop

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The IADC (International Association of Drilling Contractors) presented information on its activities related to developing training programs for offshore drilling personnel and the new IADC Well Control Institute.

The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) described several of its



projects related to offshore drilling. This included a BOP shearing study and an oil spill response activities.

IADC proposed that the IRF agree to form a new safety organization with IADC and IOGP. After lengthy discussions, the meeting informed IADC and IOGP that:

- The IRF supported the initiatives of the two organizations.
- The IRF was interested is working closely with the organizations on these initiatives and receiving updates on a more regular bases.
- An exclusive agreement between the three parties was not in the best interests of the IRF.
- The IRF and individual members will support the initiative, though not exclusively, as well support others who are moving in that direction.

The meeting discussed options for the organizations to participate in these industry projects.

## 12 Topics of Interest

#### Strategic Plan

- ASEA (Mexico) offered a strategic map for the members to populate.
- The meeting agreed to structure the 2015 annual meeting around solidifying the strategic plan.
- Finding a trained facilitator may help the meeting tease out ideas.
- Set up a working group to create a draft, share the draft with the management committee and then with the rest of the members.

#### External Engagement with Standard Development Organizations (SDO's)

- Express shared desire to reduce risk and enhance safety
- Determine priorities for standard development.
- Put the priorities in the Communications Packet, post on IRF website
- Communicate priorities to SDO's

#### **Management Committee Updates**

- BSEE is the chair for 2015
- The working committee for strategic direction could be a model for the Management Committee, but it would require changes to the Charter
- A midyear meeting for the Management Committee will be held at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston. It will focus on changes to roles and responsibilities.
- The challenge for the Management Committee: organizing the AGM, organizing the Offshore Safety Conference, and managing the group's strategy and operations.
- C-NSOPB will work with NOPSEMA on changes to the Charter.