

NSB 11th Meeting – Notes for Minutes of meeting held on 22nd September 2020.

Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Board to the 11th meeting of the National Shipping Board.

Leave of absence was granted to: Captain Sanjay Prashar and.....

Agenda items were taken up for discussion.

1. Cyber security

Mr. Brijesh Singh, IPS, made a presentation on the framework for maritime cyber security. He highlighted the recent incidents of cyber breach in maritime sector - JNPT in 2017; Maersk – which led to loss of billions of dollars to the company as it took 2-3 months to identify source of breach; tilting of oil carrier through use of malware; hacking of Antwerp Port System – the specific information obtained was used to place illegal drugs in specific containers. These incidents pose a high level of environmental and regulatory risk for the maritime and shipping industry. The detection of malware in the corporate world takes as long as 250 days. Malwares are currently polymorphic and multistage; and the tendency for IT and operational technology to merge has rendered the systems highly vulnerable.

Mr. Singh further highlighted the need for risk assessment (likelihood and severity), identification of the role of each actor; maintaining an inventory of the assets; and sharing of cyber threat intelligence. Detailed plans will be necessary to institute robust firewalls, protect data, ensure physical security and work towards rapid recovery. In addition, standards and forensic capability services need to be made more rigorous.

Mr. Singh also pointed out that India has a sole IT Act while other countries have introduced specific Acts to govern cyber operations (such as for child protection, data privacy etc.). He stated that maritime sector would benefit from special provisions concerning cyber security.

At the end of the presentation, Joint Secretary Mr. Satinder Singh was requested to guide the Board. He agreed to form a group (inter alia including AMTOI, ICG, Ports) that could work towards appropriate legislation with respect to cybersecurity.

2. Konkan Maritime Cluster

Mr. Suraj Dialani, CEO of the Konkan Maritime Cluster made a presentation on the genesis and current status of the unique cluster. The Goa-based cluster has an investment of Rs. 54.8 Crores and a turnover of Rs. 102 Cr, with a potential of 8900 direct and indirect employment in Goa. Once the CFC (Common Facility Centre, supported by the Ministry of MSME) is established, it is envisaged that investments is expected to increase by 30%, turnover by 40% and employment by 60%, with enhanced capability for defence sector.

Mr. Dialani explained that the advantage of the CFC are: empowerment of MSM enterprises, cost reduction through common processing (blasting, cutting, plate and pipe bending, rolling, painting, 3D production capability) and outsourcing; increased productivity and quality of product; increased skill of manpower (possible to extrapolate and cater to new areas such as offshore activities); and reduced carbon footprint.

The Cluster proposes to develop capabilities in software (ship and propeller designing, computational analysis), material & equipment testing, industrial waste disposal and management, painting booth, skill development centre (welder, fitter, material handling and safety). The ability to analyse the design in the common facility prior to fabrication / production will assist in increasing speed and cost efficiency.

The cluster will be an employment accelerator (6.4X) with a huge multiplier effect in turnover (11.6X in investment and 4.2X in turnover), with an ultimate potential to provide direct livelihood to 15000 souls and indirect to 60,000. The Cluster has approached / will approach Sagarmala Development Corporation for project funding, and has plans to partner Dubai Maritime Authority.

The presentation was followed by active interaction: Mr. Ajay Sahai asked about promoting sector specific skills in ship building; Mr. Rahul Modi asked if memberships to the cluster were open to all, and Mr. Balasubramanian suggested that IMU institutionalise such initiatives within their research centres. Members complemented Konkan Maritime Cluster and expressed the hope that they can guide more clusters in the country.

3. It was decided to schedule the next meeting of the NSB on 13th October 2020, as the SoP for RO-RO needs to be developed on priority.

The meeting concluded with thanks to all the participants.