



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

## Media Release

11 June 2009

### **AUSTRALIA HOSTS THE 10TH ASIA-PACIFIC HEADS OF MARITIME SAFETY AGENCIES FORUM**

Australia hosted the 10th Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) Forum from Sunday 31 May to 3 June at the Hilton Sydney.

The Forum brought together some 80 representatives of 29 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as two regional organisations and two inter-governmental organisations with responsibilities for maritime safety and environment protection.

Mr Graham Peachey, AMSA's Chief Executive Officer declared the meeting a great success.

"This year's Forum was instrumental in reinvigorating policy and operational partnerships to make shipping in the region safe, secure and sustainable."

The Forum, first initiated by Australia in 1996, was a key platform in Australia's Ship Safety and Maritime Industry week and provided a timely opportunity for maritime industry regulators in the region to share ideas on how to address the challenges facing the maritime industry stemming from the global economic situation.

Recurring themes during the meeting ranged from the International Maritime Organization's voluntary audit scheme, labour shortages, implementation and compliance with the international legal regime, human and institutional capacity, and the effects of the global economic situation on the welfare of seafarers.

A statement produced at the conclusion of the meeting highlighted the importance of regional cooperation amongst maritime agencies to ensure a viable and sustainable maritime industry for the economic and social prosperity of the region.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for AMSA to enter into a number of agreements with other countries on mutual areas of cooperation that will help ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of regional and international standards relating to maritime safety and security, marine environment protection and search and rescue.

The next meeting of the Forum will be hosted by the Philippines in 2010.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:** Mick Spinks 0417 615 769

[www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au)