

EPPR Working Group Meeting

Oslo, Norway
October 21, 2011

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1. Calling meeting to order

The EPPR semiannual meeting was hosted by Norway in Oslo October 21st. The meeting was held back to back with the Arctic Council Task Force and the EPPR scoping workshop. EPPR Chair Ole Kristian Bjerkemo called the meeting to order.

2. Welcome by Norwegian Hosts

Rune Bergstrøm, Head of Delegation for Norway, welcomed everyone to Norway and Oslo and shared the history of Holmenkollen and Nordmarka as skiing arenas for the population of Oslo.

3. EPPR Work Group Convenes

3.1 Introductions

Delegation members from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States, Permanent Participants and Observers introduced themselves to the group. Please see Annex 1 for the list of participants.

3.2 Approval of Agenda

The EPPR Chair requested some amendments to the Agenda of the meeting. The meeting participants accepted the amended Agenda. Please see Annex 2 for the timed agenda.

4. Outcomes from the scoping session of the Task Force to develop an Instrument on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

Chantal Guenette, Canada highlighted the mandate from the Nuuk Declaration:

“Decide to establish a Task Force, reporting to the SAOs, to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response and call for the EPPR and other relevant working groups to develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution.”

United States, Russian Federation and Norway have volunteered to co-chair the Task Force. The first meeting was held 17-18 October, 2011 in Oslo and second meeting will be held 13-14 December in St- Petersburg, Russia. The aim is to

have a final draft review by end of 2012.

Presentations were provided by each National Delegation on their National Preparedness and Response regimes including organization, roles and responsibilities, legislative and regulatory framework, and spill response capacity. The Co-Chairs asked each of the Delegations to be prepared to answer the following six questions at the next meeting:

- Should the instrument be legally binding or not?
- Should the instrument cover oil and other substances?
- What should the geographic scope/area of application be (inland waters, territorial sea, EEZ, continental shelf, high seas)?
- Should the instrument cover incidents that happen only in the ocean or also include those that originate on land?
- What spill sources should be included (ship, offshore unit, sea ports and oil handling facilities)?
- And; what should the threshold be in terms of spill volume?

These issues, and a first draft of the instrument to be prepared by Norway, will be further discussed at the second meeting of the TF, to be held 13-14 December 2011 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The aim is to have a final draft prepared by the end of 2012.

It will be necessary for the delegations to go back to their various ministries and justice departments to seek clarification on these questions. In the TF meeting and in the document from US, several issues relevant for EPPR were raised. Among other things, these questions related to Wildlife rehabilitation, Waste management, Clean-up endpoints, Liability and compensation and access to expert advisors.

Based on this report, the following way forward was proposed for EPPR:

- Provide a reference list of previous work carried out by EPPR that could inform or support the work of the Task Force.
- Provide names of appropriate experts to your Task Force Head of Delegation who could provide experts advice to the TF as a whole.
- Facilitate the linkages between the Task Force and the Best Practice Prevention work (use EPPR as means to inform the TF)

The floor was opened to other participants who attended the meeting. For the delegates in EPPR the links between the Task Force and the outcome of the Prevention work shop was the most important issue. It is important that the two activities work in close cooperation and are well informed about each other and the initiatives made.

Conclusions:

- ***USA will provide the HODs with a draft reference list of previous work carried out by EPPR for comment by the middle of November, The EPPR list of references will be transmitted to the Task Force by the end of November.***
- ***Each EPPR delegation is requested to submit to their country's delegation to the Task Force the names of appropriate experts on preparedness and response who could provide experts advice to the TF as a whole.***
- ***To facilitate the linkages between the TF and the EPPR Prevention Project, the EPPR Prevention project co-chairs will make a request to attend the TF meetings.***

5+6. Outcomes from the scoping workshop of the project “develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”

Mr. Michel Chenier, Canada, co-chair of the project with Ole Kristian Bjerkemo, presented the outcomes from the scoping workshop (WS).

Mr. Chenier summarized the scoping workshop, presented matters that require direction from EPPR, highlighted best prevention practices discussed, and discussed next step forward and the timetable.

The two days of workshop discussions focused on the scope of work and the organization of the project. There were good presentation from all sectors and Arctic Council member countries, PP's and observers. The scope of the work to be done was clearly defined to focus on: oil & gas, shipping, land based activities and maritime surveillance.

Two options for project organization were discussed:

- Project internalized by AC country experts
- Project coordinated and led by external consultant

The recommended option from the workshop was for the project to be managed by an external consultant with subject matter inputs from WS experts supplemented by information from other relevant parties. There is a need to strike balance between strong project management approach, to meet strict timelines and internalization of project development to foster AC ownership. The project co –chairs will develop business plan and explore funding options with EPPR HoDs.

The draft macro schedule plans for a final project Report to be tabled in spring 2013. A draft report is to be presented in the EPPR meeting in June 2012. A final draft report will be presented at the EPPR semiannual meeting in October 2012.

The next steps for the project planning phase will be:

- Scoping WS report to be circulated for comments Nov 4, 2011
- Developing ToR and a project plan which includes funding for consultant
- RP3 co-chairs to report to EPPR on funding options and requirements in late 2011
- SAO update Nov 7, 2011
- Informing TF of work plan Dec 13, 2011

The floor was opened to other participants. The issues highlighted were the linkages to the Task Force and the involvement of other AC WGs. The EPPR meeting requested the co-Chair to attend the meetings in the Task Force and suggested that the Chair send a letter to the chair of the Task force and asks for attendance. For involvement with other AC WG, communication to the chairs was determined to be the method to encourage participation.

Employing an external consultant to conduct the project requires funding. In addition, EPPR participants will have to follow the process closely even though a consultant will conduct the project. Norway will allocate some funding into the project. Canada will pursue the possibility of contributing funds. The US said that it is for each delegation to consider how much they will contribute to the report. Russia requested the Chair to ask for funding at the SAO meeting.

There was a discussion about communication during the course of the project, and whether it should be by forming a corresponding group, conference calls between the HoDs, e-mails or better use of the EPPR website. As there is a very limited time to achieve the project, it was agreed that all possibilities must be used.

It was agreed to title this work "EPPR Recommended Practices Prevention Project" (EPPR RP3) and the short title is EPPR Prevention Project.

Conclusions:

- ***The name of the project is EPPR Recommended Practices Prevention Project (EPPR RP3) and the short title is EPPR Prevention Project.***
- ***The first draft report from EPPR Prevention Project scoping workshop will be submitted to the participants within two weeks.***
- ***EPPR agreed in the use of a contractor (external consultant) to conduct project management and prepare draft text. It is very important that the National experts, PP's and other workings groups participate in developing and drafting the product and remain involved in the work during the review process.***
- ***The different countries will investigate funding options as soon as the business plan and the terms of reference have been submitted. The co-chairs will start preparation of the business plan immediately after the EPPR meeting. The communication between the co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project and EPPR's HoDs will be reflected in the business plan.***
- ***The co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project will send a letter to co-chairs of the TF about the EPPR RP3 participation in the TF to ensure a good link between the two activities.***
- ***USA and Sweden will look into the possibility for using the new EPPR website as a tool for outreach and communication.***

7. EPPR updates (Chair of EPPR Ole Kristian Bjerkemo)

The EPPR Chair, Mr. Ole Kristian Bjerkemo updated EPPR about activities since the last EPPR meeting in June and planned activities.

EPPR Chair and the EPPR Executive Secretary (ES) attended the Arctic Council working group chairs meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. In the meeting there was presentation of the Swedish Chairmanship and their plans for their chairmanship. Of the important questions discussed, the chair highlighted the communication between the SAO chair and the Working Groups, cooperation between the SAO Chair and Working groups concerning current events, cooperation between the working groups, preparations for the upcoming SAO meeting in Luleå and the Arctic Council website. EPPR discussed three activities launched by PAME that have raised EPPR WG's concerns about possible duplication of EPPR activities and projects.

Of other meetings, conferences and works shop in which EPPR has participated, the following meetings were highlighted:

- PAME meeting in Reykjavik September 2011- EPPR ES
- Arctic Change Assessment (ACA), Oslo - Chair
- Arctic Resilience Review (ARR) Stockholm- Chair
- International Arctic Forum, Arkhangelsk Russia – Many EPPR reps
- International Conference, Yakutsk Russia – Many EPPR reps

There will be a SAO meeting in Luleå, Sweden November 8. – 9, 2011. EPPR has submitted the Working Group Progress Reports and 2011-2013 work plans to the meeting. The Chair will also submit a Report from the EPPR Prevention Project Scoping Work shop. In addition the EPPR Chair will take part in the Outreach activities during the SAO meeting.

Conclusions:

- ***The Chair will investigate the possibility for a joint meeting between the chairmanship of EPPR and PAME to clarify mandates and a possible back to back meeting.***
- ***The question of a permanent secretariat for EPPR through the AC secretariat has been mentioned. The Chair will bring the question forward to the SAO.***
- ***The possibility of the AC secretariat hosting the EPPR web page will be pursued.***

8. New Project Proposals:

8.1 Arctic oiled wildlife response guideline

Ms Saskia Sessions, from Sea Alarm Foundation presented a new project proposal entitled “EPPR Guidelines on oiled wildlife preparedness and response for Arctic countries”..

The background for this project proposal is that a large oil spill in the Arctic could have serious implications for marine and coastal wildlife. In the event of an Arctic oil spill, authorities and industry may come under considerable pressure to do something about affected wildlife, regardless of the difficult conditions. General experience from past oil spill incidents also shows that traditional oil spill

contingency plans do not go far enough in guiding decision-makers in how to deal with large numbers of oiled animals. Developing a dedicated wildlife response plan/guideline integrated into the wider spill response might be the best way to ensure that animal welfare aspects of oiled wildlife can be dealt with professionally and cost-effectively and that reactions of the public can be managed.

Sea Alarm has good experience in assisting governments in implementing wildlife response plans. They have among other things assisted HELCOM and Bonn Agreement countries to prepare instruments for wildlife response planning at regional level

The project is designed to assist Arctic countries to improve their preparedness for oiled wildlife incidents by creating Guidelines on Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response. The link to EPPR is the aims of Objectives number 3 in the EPPR Strategic Plan of Action: "Improve emergency preparedness programmes at local, national, regional and international levels to ensure they are commensurate with the level of risk that exist, including arrangements for mutual assistance." There is also a potential link to the new Instrument on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (item 4), where wildlife rescue and rehabilitation has been raised as an issue for consideration.

It was proposed that a project is undertaken under EPPR to develop Guidelines on Oiled Wildlife Response Planning for Arctic Countries in a two – phase approach:

Phase1 – Inventory (2012) – questionnaire to EPPR (existence of wildlife response plans, capacity and strategies for oiled wildlife, scope the plans in the Arctic)

Phase 2 - Developing Guidelines on oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response for Arctic Counties (2013 – 2014)

No funding or partners are needed for Phase 1 and for Phase 2 funding or partners is to be determined.

The project supports the aims of Objectives number 3 in the EPPR Strategic Plan.

The floor was opened for a brief discussion. The countries wanted to take the project proposal back home for a wider discussion. There also was a need to bring the proposal for comment by other working groups and PP's before making it in to an EPPR project.

Conclusions:

EPPR decided to submit the draft proposal to other AC WG, PP's and others and ask for their views before further discussion in the EPPR meeting in June 2012.

8.2 Occupational safety and health in Arctic oil spill response workers

Mr. George A. Conway, from the US Centers for Disease Control presented a project proposal titled "Preventing Morbidity and Mortality Among Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers".

The purpose of this project proposal is to conduct research, develop guidelines and recommend effective measures to prevent morbidity and mortality among oil spill response workers in the Arctic environment. The project will conduct research on oil spill response operations to identify the hazards that oil spill response workers responding in the Arctic may encounter, suggest strategies to either control or eliminate those hazards, and provide information to public health responders deployed to protect oil spill workers.

The project has the expected duration from November 2011 until October 2014. The proposal listed the Major Milestones during the timeline.

The proposing agency (CDC/NIOSH) is providing personnel and other support to assist EPPR to begin project activities and invites counterparts in other nations to do the same. The proposing agency will seek additional funds as necessary for identified, shared needs to support the project. Each country participating in the project will self-fund activities it undertakes under this project.

There is a link from this project proposal to EPPR Strategic plan Objective 3 and Objective 4.

The floor was opened and Finland stated that this is valuable subject to pay attention to, but was a bit concerned of the load already carried by EPPR and asked if this could be a bit too much to take on. In the end all AC countries supported the project proposal as an EPPR project. Also Athabaskan Council gave their support to the project.

Conclusions:

EPPR approved the proposal "Preventing Morbidity and Mortality among Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers" as an EPPR project.

9. Update on Current Projects

9.1 Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide - Discussion and Demonstration (Dr. Amy Merten, USA)

-Dr. Merten provided an uptake on the project, and stated that the plan is to finish in Spring 2012, pending funding. There is a working product for Arctic ERMA (development site) and the project team is continuing to add data layers.

- Ongoing work includes working with Communities to better access local traditional knowledge. In order to finish, roughly \$100K(USD) is needed, mostly for data acquisition, but also for training, participation in drills and some equipment/maintenance. There is already a working site, but it is not fully loaded with all the necessary data.

-If the desire is a totally robust, public facing Arctic ERMA site akin to Geoplatform.gov/gulf response, with the current constraints with the infrastructure needed and IT security requirements at the WOC/OCIO, an additional \$300K will be needed to finish the work.

- To provide an update on the larger ERMA project outside of the Arctic work, the team continues to populate ERMA/GeoPlatform in support of the ongoing US government efforts in the Gulf for DWH as well as at additional locations across the country (Puget Sound, Pacific Islands, Southwest, Caribbean, and New England). Since EPPR's June 2011 Whitehorse Meeting Norwegian data sets have been added, Dr. Merten has made a connection with ArcticPortal.Org (Iceland), updated some Canadian data sets, added DOI/BOEMRE (now DOI/BSEE) data for the Chukchi/Beaufort region, and made a connection with Denmark/Greenland.
- Next steps include to work with other countries to access the key data sets,, continue data acquisition in US/Canadian Arctic, and work with Arctic Communities to incorporate local knowledge. The deliverable date is spring /summer 2012, which will be followed by training and drills.

Go to demo: (log in info will be distributed to EPPR delegates).

<https://www.erma.unh.edu/arctic/erma.html>

Conclusions:

- ***EPPR took note of the project update.***
- ***Amy Merten of the US will submit information about login details to the participants of the EPPR meeting.***

9.2 IMO Arctic Region Chapter: In Situ Burn (ISB) of Oil Spills on Water and Broken and Solid Ice Conditions (Christy Bohl, USA and Chantal Guenette, Canada)

In June 2011 at the Whitehorse Canada meeting, this project was approved by EPPR. The original proposal called for EPPR to develop a separate chapter covering ISB operations for the Arctic Marine environment which was to be incorporated into the IMO Guideline on ISB. The proposal was presented to the IMO in late July this year. The IMO approved working with EPPR and incorporating our document with modifications. IMO decided that they would accept EPPR's input for their ISB Guideline but that portions of the EPPR project would be incorporated in various sections of the IMO document instead of standing as a complete separate chapter.

The IMO ISB Guidelines are intended to be a more general guideline that provides information for planners as opposed to a field guide that provides detailed instructions on deployment considerations. The IMO does not want to insert a dedicated chapter on Arctic ISB operations but instead wishes to extract information from the EPPR document and insert it into various sections of their guideline. They would also provide a link within their document that would direct the reader to the EPPR guideline for the detailed operational guidelines for ISB operations in ice conditions.

In partnering with IMO we would need to slightly revise the scope of the document we proposed to incorporate more general and background information that previously would have just been referenced in the EPPR document.

The ISB Guideline project has been approved by both EPPR and IMO.

The important major milestones and dates are the Arctic ISB Chapter will be drafted and offered up for review and comment to the EPPR and the IMO in the March/April 2012 timeframe.

When comments are received and addressed the final Arctic ISB Guide chapter will be presented to the EPPR in November 2012.

Alaska Clean Sea (oil spill removal organization) has indicated they would be interested in assisting with the document. After discussion EPPR agreed to open participation to relevant expert organizations. Also Norway will sponsor Sintef to contribute funds to this project.

Conclusions:

EPPR took the note of the project update and that Alaskan Clean Sea and Sintef, Norway will contribute with expertise in the project.

9.3 Progress on the Arctic Rescue project (Igor Veselov, Russian Federation)

Mr.Igor Veselov, Russian Federation updated EPPR on the activities under this project since the last meeting.

A conference was organized in August by the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia) with the support of the Government of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia) and Siberian Branch of the Russian Federation Academy of Sciences . Conference participants were about 100 representatives from different institutions of Arctic Council states.

Main topics of the conference:

- Emergency situations in the Arctic. Prevention and response.
- Search and rescue in the Arctic. Collaboration of the Arctic states in SAR operations.
- People and territory safety protection in the area of potentially dangerous enterprises of the Arctic.

It was acknowledged that:

- The amount of means and forces in the Arctic aimed at protection of people and territories, search and rescue, oil and other hazardous liquid substances spills elimination may not be adequate.
- Shortage of response forces in some states and necessity of search-and-rescue activity coordination of different countries necessitates strengthening of international collaboration. The evidence of this is recently signed between the Arctic States SAR Agreement.

Delegates called for:

- The broader use of existing knowledge and developments of the Arctic states: AAmverNet and BoHaSa projects, Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide;

- The new research in all the spheres of emergencies preparedness and response both scientific and technological for arctic conditions and sharing of knowledge;
- Implementation of the modern systems of emergencies monitoring and management in the Arctic. The meeting was informed that Russian Federation and other Arctic states plan to build up their forces and means. Emercom of Russia will set up 10 complex search-and-rescue centers and the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation plans to purchase new rescue vehicles of different types and open rescue coordination centers. Conference participants also visited the Permafrost Institute of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and were briefed on scientific studies underway at the Institute.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the project update

9.4 Progress on the Development of Safety Systems in the implementation of economic and infrastructural projects (Igor Veselov, Russian Federation)

On August 8-11, 2011 exercises were held within the framework of the transit of the Ice-breaker Yamal along the Northern Sea Route with the participation of high ranking representatives of the Arctic Council.

It was an interagency exercise with the involvement of forces and means of Emercom of Russia, Ministry of Transport, Coastguard of Russia, Federal Agency "Rosmorrechflot"

In total 9 boats and vessels, 3 aircraft and more than 600 people took part in the activity.

The main tasks and goals of the Complex Exercises "Arctic-2011" were to:

Check the readiness of the management and response forces involved, including the communications, warning and information provision systems in case of emergency on the Northern Sea Route.

Improvement of the practical skills of the officials for prevention and response to emergency situations, including for decision making across organizations.

Verify processes and readiness for fire security, search and rescue for people in the sea, and liquidation of the sea accidents consequences in the Russian part of

the Arctic.

Training emphasizing the collaboration of search-and-rescue services of the Federal executive bodies, Executive bodies of the regions, local self-governments, institutions and organizations in organizing sea based oil spill response and search and rescue.

Check the readiness and training level of the search-and-rescue detachments personal for the works on liquidation of the man-made emergency situations consequences in the Arctic region.

Conclusions:

- ***EPPR took note of the project update***
- ***Russia will inform the next EPPR meeting about a large exercises held in October 2011 in the Caspian Sea.***
- ***Norway informed about a workshop subsequent with the annual exercise Barents 2012 which will be held in Kirkenes, Norway June 4. – 6.2012.***

9.5 Update on Radiation Projects (Maria Holleran-Rivera, USA)

The United States and the Russian Federation have a strong radiological emergency collaboration. Under EPPR Radiological Emergency Projects, the US & RF work in 5 project areas which result in practical improvements to radiological emergency management.

Cooperation Project Areas are:

1. Radiation Emergency Training
2. Emergency Crisis Center Support
3. Community Radiation Information
4. Emergency Rescue Team Equipment
5. Radiation Emergency Exercises

Mrs. Holleran Rivera provided updates in the two subject areas: Emergency Rescue Team Equipment and Radiation Exercise.

EPPR will conduct medical response training “I-Medical Course”:

- Addresses methods of minimizing the spread of radioactive contamination

when treating and transporting patients

- Illustrates the procedures for treating injuries to personnel who are contaminated
- Describes how to adapt hospital emergency plans and protocols to prepare an effective response to the treatment of mass radiation related injuries
- Sweden will host the first I-MED course in 2012
- EPPR will be invited to participate

EPPR will consider conducting an Arctic version of radiological search training, “I-Rapter.” Two of the purposes of I-Rapter are to:

1. Improve preparedness in the Arctic region by offering training on radiological search, identification, and detection techniques using field and mobile exercises
2. Improve response to all types of radiological or nuclear emergencies in the Arctic region, including acts of terrorism

EPPR is upgrading the suite of Nerpa Shipyard Emergency Rescue Team Equipment - Description

- Provide new detection and identification equipment to the Nerpa Ship Yard emergency rescue team
- Conduct an analysis of possible emergency situations involving radiological materials and radioactive waste storage containers
- Prepare a set of scenarios and simulations of the radiological consequence of such events and forecast measurement values

The Emergency Rescue Team Equipment began from the lessons learned from Exercise “Arctic 2008,” at CS Zvezdochka, which identified the need to replace personal protection equipment as a priority for protecting worker’s health and improving the capabilities of rescue teams to respond to potential radiation emergencies. The project included training for the ERT personnel on the use of specialized software to perform radiation assessment. Similarly, the idea for this project resulted from the “Lessons Learned” during the radiological emergency exercise conducted at the Nerpa Ship Yard at the end of July in 2010.

During the debriefing conducted after the exercise, Russian federation and international observers (including EPPR representatives) concluded that it was advisable to modernize the emergency rescue team’s instrumentation. The new equipment will enable responders to identify the location and extent of radiation levels and to be able to relay that information to the Crisis Center.

“Arctic 2012” Radiation Emergency Exercises – Goals:

- Assess and validate policies, plans, procedures, training, equipment, assumptions, and agreements;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities;
- Improve coordination and communication not only at the facility but also among response elements including multiple levels of government;
- Identify gaps in resources;
- Measure performance; and
- Identify opportunities for additional improvement.

The next exercise will be “Arctic 2012”, which will take place in Saida Bay next summer. The “lessons learned” from these exercises contribute to setting priorities for cooperative activities under these EPPR sponsored projects.

Conclusions:

EPPR is invited to the Saida Bay exercise in the Murmansk area on June 20, 2012 and will be able to participate in exercise play by, for example arranging for notification to national emergency operation centers to exercise bilateral agreements. Those who wish to participate in exercise play should contact Maria Holleran Rivera.

9.6 AAMverNet – update (Maria Holleran-Rivera, USA)

Through the AAMverNet project, EPPR aims to increase the probability of a successful rescue of passengers and crews traveling in the Arctic. The first step is to multiply the number of ship available to respond to a ship in distress. Today there are over 5,000 vessels reporting to the US Coast Guard AMVER search and rescue program. These are volunteers, vessels of opportunity which are available to rescue people anywhere in the world.

AMVER received over 1,000 vessel position reports above 70 degrees in the last 45 days. That's about 30 vessels of opportunity available for search and rescue reporting every day. Combine that with AIS data and LRIT information and you increase the odds in the favor of survival. Through the AAMverNet project EPPR will create a vessel position reporting network comprised of all the Arctic Council nations, and maximize the odds in favor of successful rescue. The United States will start the process by making Amver information available to all Arctic nations through a link on the proposed Arctic SAR resource page on the EPPR website.

Arctic countries are requested to encourage national SAR centers to start using

it. Encouraging Arctic nation maritime rescue organizations to utilize the EPPR ASAR link does not require additional expenditure on the part of the Arctic nation. It simply requires that maritime rescue organizations include the ASAR link into their operations protocol.

Arctic nations may take a second step in the process by posting a link to their national vessel position system on the EPPR ASAR link. Taking this step can thus multiply the number of ships which are available for a rescue through ASAR even further by having other Arctic nations post vessel position information.

EPPR's AAmverNet project supports the Arctic Council's Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic (the SAR Agreement). Use of AAmverNet promotes mutual search and rescue cooperation – cooperation in search and rescue is essential to increase the chances that Arctic emergencies do not overwhelm national capabilities, while increasing the probabilities that lives can be saved.

EPPR can make a significant contribution now toward implement the letter and the spirit of the Arctic Council's SAR Agreement by linking ship position reporting systems through the AAmverNet project at little or no cost or administrative effort by Arctic nation maritime search and rescue organizations. All that is needed is for the governments to participate in the AAmverNet project by getting access to the vessel position reports that the vessels voluntarily provide through the U.S. Amver system. The ships have a choice as to whether to provide vessel position information, and the vast majority decides to do so.

The United States has offered to share vessel position information in the Amver system with all the Arctic countries. Amver has been in successful operation since 1958 and has proven its value during maritime emergencies. Using established ship reporting systems will spare EPPR the costs of developing a system from the ground up. EPPR will build AAmverNet using a method to request vessel position data which already exists. Vessels are familiar with the system, the data is provided at no cost to the nation requesting the information, and if ships are in the area of a maritime emergency, the ships will be available to offer assistance.

Conclusions:

- ***EPPR took note of the update.***
- ***US will post AMVER information on EPPR website and request National SAR organizations to use it.***
- ***US will contact personnel responsible for the next SAR exercise under the Arctic SAR agreement to provide information about AMVER for possible use during the exercise.***

9.7 Update on revision of EPPR documents; Arctic Emergencies Current and Future Risks, Mitigation and Response Cooperation Risk Matrices and Arctic Guide (Maria Holleran Rivera, USA)

Maria Holleran – Rivera, USA gave an update on this activity.

At the June 2011 meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, EPPR agreed to prepare a report summarizing the current state of knowledge on Arctic emergencies and Emergency cooperation taking into account current and emerging risks from human activity and natural causes, identified operational gaps for preparedness and response, mitigation actions under EPPR or reported to EPPR by national representatives, and recommendations contained in recent Arctic Council reports.

The report is titled "Arctic Emergencies: Current and Future Risks, Mitigation, and Response Cooperation" (Arctic Emergencies report). The Arctic Emergencies report also contains an Appendix identifying relevant international conventions, multi- and bilateral agreements and arrangements with a brief description of the subject of each, its status, extent of Arctic Council member's participation, and citations to official websites, in every instance where such information was available.

Based on communication between the EPPR HoDs, it was decided to submit the report to the co-leads of the Arctic Council Task Force on an Instrument on Cooperation in Preparedness and Response to Marine Oil Spills in the Arctic. The purpose for this was to support the work of the Task Force by providing a contextual reference for the Task Force as it begins its deliberations.

The feedback from the co-leads of the Task Force after receiving the report was very positive.

Conclusions:

EPPR noted that the report has been submitted to the TF and the positive feedback, in particular to the appendix listing international Conventions Multilateral- and Bilateral-agreement.

10. Any other business

"International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)" by Dag Olav Høgvold.

Due to illness Mr. Høgvold could not attend the meeting. Please find the strategy document in Annex. 3

11. Administration

11.1 EPPR website

- EPPR took note of the progress and look forward for the launching of the new website.

11.2 Record of Decisions

- The Chair read the record of decisions and asked for input from the group. Please see Annex 4 for the complete record of Decisions

11.3 Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting

- Next meeting will be a two-day meeting sometime between 11- 15th of June 2012.
- Iceland will most likely host the meeting

11.4 All presentations from the EPPR meeting and the Scoping Workshop may be accessed at:

- Open Microsoft Internet Explorer, and go to this address:
 - <ftp://ftp01.kystverket.no/>
- Username and password = lunde2

Annex 1: List of Meeting Participants

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Annex 2

Draft Agenda for EPPR Working Group Meeting

Friday 21 October 2011

Rica Holmenkollen Park Hotel, Oslo Norway

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

1. **Calling meeting to order (Ole Kristian Bjerkemo, EPPR Chair)**
2. **Welcome by Norwegian Hosts (Rune Bergstrøm, Norway)**
3. **EPPR Work Group Convenes (Ole Kristian Bjerkemo, EPPR Chair)**
 - 3.1. Introductions (EPPR WG Participants)
 - 3.2. Approval of Agenda (EPPR Chair)

9:30 a.m. – 10: 00 a.m.

4. **Outcomes from the first meeting of the Task Force to develop an Instrument on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response**

10:00 a.m. – 10: 30 a.m.

5. **Outcomes from the first meeting of the project “develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”**

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

6. **Continued: Outcomes from the first meeting of the project “develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”**

11:30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

7. EPPR updates (Chair)

- Outcomes from Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group meeting (PAME)
- Report on Arctic Change Assessment meeting
- Upcoming Senior Arctic Officials meeting
- Upcoming conferences relevant to EPPR (all to contribute information)

12:00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

8. New Project Proposals

- 8.1 Arctic oiled wildlife response guideline
- 8.2 Occupational safety and health of Arctic oil spill response workers

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch – Provided for EPPR WG at the hotel

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

9. Update on Current Projects

- 9.1 Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide - Discussion and Demonstration (Dr. Amy Merten, USA)
- 9.2 IMO Arctic Region Chapter: In Situ Burn (ISB) of Oil Spills on Water and Broken and Solid Ice Conditions (Christy Bohl, USA)
- 9.3 . Progress on the Arctic Rescue project (Igor Veselov, Russian Federation)
- 9.4. Progress on the Development of Safety Systems in the implementation of economic and infrastructural projects (Igor Veselov)

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

9. Update on Current Projects continued

- 9.5. Update on Radiation Projects (Maria Holleran Rivera, USA)
- 9.6. Update on revision of EPPR documents: Arctic Emergencies: Current and Future Risks, Mitigation, and Response Cooperation; Risk Matrices and Arctic Guide (Maria Holleran Rivera, USA)

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

10. Other Information

10.1. “International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)” by Dag Olav Høgvold, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Norway

10.2 “How Space Systems Can Support EPPR Objectives” by the European Space Agency - Satellite Telecommunications

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

11. Administration

11.1 EPPR website (Secretariat)

11.2 Record of Decisions (Chair and Secretariat)

11.3 Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting (Chair)

Annex 3

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

EPPR might want to consider getting involved in the work of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), which aims at coordinating countries, NGOs, international organizations, and other stakeholders in a global work to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Hyogo Framework for Action

In 2005, 186 countries signed the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)* which gives the current global framework for prevention of disasters. It provides a technical and political agreement on areas that need to be addressed to reduce risks. The HFA presents five priorities for action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

The Mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2010) showed that the HFA has played an important role in defining a common, unified language in this field. Since the HFA was signed, there also seems to have been a shift in how disaster risk reduction is perceived – from disaster management and response to more focus on how disaster risks can be reduced through planning processes at national and local levels (especially spatial planning), risk assessments and monitoring, awareness raising and competence building.

National, regional and global platforms

One of the key instruments of the ISDR is the development of 'National Platforms' for disaster risk reduction. These are national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that are multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary.

Further, there are regional platforms (Europe, Asia, the Americas etc) to facilitate information sharing and exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries.

Finally, there is a bi-annual Global Platform in Geneva which brings together a huge variety of national representatives, international organizations, NGOs etc from the whole world. The Global Platform for Disaster Reduction was established in 2007 as a biennial forum for information exchange, discussion of latest development and knowledge and partnership building across sectors, with the goal to improve implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and coordination amongst stakeholders. The next Global Platform will be held in 2013.

Linking the work of the EPPR and the ISDR could be beneficial for both: For the EPPR,

it would be an opportunity to get involved in a work that to a large extent defines how nations should address the issue of disaster risk reduction. For the ISDR, it would be valuable to get more insight of the challenges of reducing risks in the Arctic – both today and in the context of future climate change.

More information

The website www.preventionweb.net provides information from countries and organizations that are currently engaged in the work of the ISDR. See also the UNISDR website: www.unisdr.org.

Annex 4

Record of Decisions

Final

The following Record of Decisions summarizes decisions made during the EPPR Working Group Meeting in Oslo

- 4. Outcomes from the scoping session of the Task Force to develop an Instrument on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response**
 - USA, will provide the HODs with a draft reference list of previous work carried out by EPPR for comment by the middle of November, The EPPR list of references will be transmitted to the Task Force by the end of November. Each EPPR delegation is requested to submit to their country's delegation to the Task Force the names of appropriate experts on preparedness and response who could provide experts advice to the TF as a whole,
 - To facilitate the linkages between the TF and the EPPR Prevention Project, the co-chairs will make a request to attend the TF-meetings.

- 5. Outcomes from the scoping workshop of the project “develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”**
 - The first draft report from EPPR Prevention Project scoping workshop will be submitted to the participants within two weeks.
 - The name of the project is EPPR Recommended Practices Prevention Project (EPPR RP3) and the short title is EPPR Prevention Project.
 - EPPR agreed in the use of a contractor (external consultant) to conduct project management and prepare draft text. It is very important that the National experts, PP's and other workings groups participate in developing and drafting the product and remain involved in the work during the review process.
 - The different countries will investigate funding options as soon as the business plan and the terms of reference have been submitted. The co-chairs will start preparation of the business plan immediately after the EPPR meeting. The communication between the co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project and EPPR's HoDs will be reflected in the business plan.

- The co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project will send a letter to co-chairs of the TF about the EPPR RP3 participation in the TF to ensure a good link between the two activities.
- USA and Sweden will look into the possibility for using the new EPPR website as a tool for outreach and communication.

7. EPPR updates (Chair)

- The Chair will investigate the possibility for a joint meeting between the chairmanship of EPPR and PAME to clarify mandates and to explore scheduling a possible back to back meeting.
- EPPR chair will circulate a two-page document highlighting outcomes from this EPPR meeting to the HoDs for comments before it is submitted to the SAO chair.

8. New Project Proposals:

8.1 Arctic oiled wildlife response guideline

- The EPPR chair will inform other AC WG, PP's and others about the proposed the project and ask for their views.
- The proposal will be discussed in the next EPPR meeting in June 2012.

8.2 Occupational safety and health in Arctic oil spill response workers

- EPPR approved the proposal "Preventing Morbidity and Mortality among Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers" as an EPPR project.

9. Update on Current Projects

9.1 Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide Discussion and Demonstration (US)

- EPPR took note of the project update.
- Amy Merten of the US will submit information about login details to the participants of the EPPR meeting.

9.2 IMO Arctic Region Chapter: In Situ Burn (ISB) of Oil Spills on Water and Broken and Solid Ice Conditions (US)

- EPPR took note of the project update. EPPR was informed that Alaska Clean Seas and Norway will contribute with expertise in the project.

9.3 Progress on the Arctic Rescue project (Russia)

- EPPR took note of the update.

9.4 Progress on the Development of Safety Systems in the implementation of economic and infrastructural projects (Russia)

- Russia will inform the next EPPR meeting about a large exercise held in October 2011 in the Caspian Sea.
- Norway informed about a workshop subsequent with the annual exercise

Barents 2012 which will be held in Kirkenes, Norway June 4 – 6, 2012.

9.5 Update on Radiation Projects (USA)

- EPPR is invited to the Saida Bay exercise in the Murmansk area on June 20, 2012 and will be able to participate in exercise play by, for example arranging for notification to national emergency operation centers to exercise bilateral agreements. Those who wish to participate in exercise play should contact Maria Holleran Rivera

9.6. Update on revision of EPPR documents: Arctic Emergencies: Current and Future Risks, Mitigation, and Response Cooperation: Risk Matrices

- EPPR noted that the report has been submitted to the TF and the positive feedback, in particular to the appendix listing international Conventions, Multilateral- and Bilateral-agreement.

9.7 AAmverNet update – path forward

- EPPR took note of the update.
- US will post AMVER information on EPPR website and request National SAR organizations to use it.
- US will contact personnel responsible for the next SAR exercise under the Arctic SAR agreement to provide information about AMVER for possible use during the exercise.

10. Any other business

10.1. “International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)”

- EPPR took note of the information of the document “International Strategy for Disaster reduction (ISDR)”.

11. Administration

EPPR website (Secretariat)

- EPPR took note of the progress and look forward for the launching of the new website.

Record of Decisions (Chair and Secretariat)

- The draft records of decision will be submitted to the HoD’s October 24th.

Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting (Chair)

- Next meeting will be a two-day meeting sometime between 11- 15th of June 2012.
- Iceland will very likely host the meeting and will inform EPPR within two weeks.