It became obvious that the Mediterranean Sea is and will remain a major route for transporting oil and gas. Therefore the risk associated with this heavy traffic requires serious efforts of all concerned parties, including Industry, to ensure that preparedness for credible response to accidental marine pollution is in place. The IPIECA’s responsible initiative to establish and support the MOIG in realizing its vision as recognized organization standing on its own was indeed the right move in the right direction.

Those who attended the ceremony of the formal launching of MOIG in Tunis, on 27 – 29 January 2004, have seen how proud IPIECA was presenting MOIG to the whole world. MOIG will always be grateful to IPIECA Management specially to Mr. Chris Morris, the present Secretary General and all his staff for their commitment for continuous support for their remarkable efforts to provide that successful launching. On the other hand, no one can ignore or undermine the vital role of the IMO, particularly REMPEC, in supporting and motivating MOIG since its inception in 1992 until its realization in 27 January 2004. The MOIG / REMPEC cooperation is looked at as a successful example of regional cooperation between Industry and Intergovernmental organizations. The planned cooperation of MOIG and REMPEC in the fields of regional exercises and training, development of a resourceful database and sensitivity maps will certainly have great positive impact on the response capability of the Mediterranean region. The REMPEC support and assistance have been and will always be crucial to MOIG sustainability. In this respect, on behalf of MOIG and its staff, I would like to express MOIG’s gratitude to the Rear Admiral Roberto Patruno, Director of REMPEC, for his remarkable input to MOIG success.

Special gratitude and appreciation should also go to the previous Chairman of MOIG, André Lamy, whose personal efforts were crucial in realizing MOIG in such a short space of time. His commitment and sincere belief in industry cooperation has forged strong ties between MOIG and its partners both within and beyond the IPIECA arena. He has quietly and with measured firmness, steered MOIG development to a regionally and internationally recognized organization with promising potentials.

Now having realized its goal of being an independent and recognized organization MOIG shall focus on achieving its identified objectives:

- to promote regional cooperation, within the oil industry and between governments and the oil industry on a national and regional basis in the Mediterranean region, and
- to enhance preparedness and response to oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean region.

These are great challenges that require our serious cooperation. As the previous Acting Chairman of MOIG, Eric Calonne has mentioned in the last Newsletter: “It is crucial for members to understand that we are entering a key year. It is very clear from our bank account, that, without the support of the existing members and the joining of new members, the future of MOIG could quickly be compromised”.

Thanks to team effort and the will of members, MOIG now has its Headquarters in Tunis with a dedicated highly professional Director, Ridha Dhaoui. To maintain this achievement and deliver on its business plan it is crucial that present members of MOIG honour their annual contribution and for the MOIG Management to promote new memberships. Great challenges indeed, but together we shall face them and reach our goals.

Finally I would like to emphasize the importance of the Industry members working together to proactively raise and improve preparedness rather than reactively clean up the after math. One accident affects us all no matter who pays. In fact we all pay. For example, under the International Oil Pollution Convention, the cost to some non involved companies in the “Nahodka” sinking off Japan in 1997, may well be tens of millions of dollars, even though they had absolutely no connection with either of those ships or their cargoes. Perhaps the words of that Elizabethan poet and writer John Donne are apt:

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee”

Let us all work together to improve our present and hope for a better future.

MOIG is grateful to André Lamy and Chris Morris for all their efforts.
MOIG new Partner

MOIG had established contact with the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Énergie OME that has its office in France. Its General Director, Mr Giuseppe M. Sfigliotti, wrote to tell us that OME is interested to establish contacts with MOIG and hopes to find opportunities to get together. On behalf of MOIG Members, I welcome OME as a new Partner of our Group.

MOIG / REMPEC COLLABORATION

1. Coordination of joint exercises and training activities.
   Participation of MOIG will enable the Oil Industry in the Mediterranean to actively involve with all other stakeholders in a partnership through the exercises organized by REMPEC. (First one expected in Oct. 2004 in Genoa, Italy). MOIG will also support training at a sub regional level by providing technical lectures in Arabic for the benefit of the southern and eastern Mediterranean Arab Countries.

2. Data base of equipment and resources:
   MOIG will contribute to develop the database on equipment and resources in the Region. However, it's understood and agreed that this would require great input from the MOIG members and REMPEC member countries. This project should be done in accordance with the spirit of regional co-operation.

3. Sensitivity mapping:
   MOIG will attempt to standardize the general approach to sensitivity mapping in the Industry. Starting by active participation, reflecting industry views, in the meeting to be organized by REMPEC on this issue.

MOIG Management Committee

The newly elected Management Committee is formed of the following persons:

**Chairman:**
- Hazem Bashat from PIEPC/SHELL/Egypt

**Vice Chairman:**
- Ezio Amato from ICRAM/Italy

**Vice Chairman:**
- Richard Byrnes from PESCO/Egypt

**Members:**
- Thomas Liebert from IPIECA/UK
- Abdallah Ouadhani from ETAP/Tunisia
- Clement Lavigne from TOTAL/France
- Pierre Bouchet from Service de la Marine/Monaco
- Maher Nabulsi from SHELL/Syria

Rear Admiral Roberto Patruno, REMPEC Director giving his speech during the Opening Ceremony
MOIG WORKSHOP

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

As MOIG members are meeting only twice a year, it is highly important to provide your Permanent Secretary Office with any information, articles or breaking news that you would like to include in the future newsletters.

SPONSORS OF THE TUNIS MEETING

Special thanks to Mr Ali CHINE Chairman of ETAP and Mr Dimitri Xylinas General Director of TOTAL Tunisia for their full support to our meeting. It's also important to thank the following responsible:

- Mr Steve Surral  Pdt  BG  Tunisia
- Mr Nicholas Gosse  GM  LUNDIN  Tunisia
- Mr Anton Lehner  DG  OMV  Tunisia
- Mr Béchir Nahdi  PDG  SEREPT  Tunisia
- Mr Salah Daldoul  PDG  STIR  Tunisia
- Mr Med M'barek  PDG  SHELL  Tunisia
- Mr Rafik Hamza  DG  TPS  Tunisia

On behalf of the delegates, and especially those representing MOIG and IPIECA, may I thank you most sincerely. It was most generous of you and much appreciated by all those who have attended the Opening Ceremony and the workshop.

PRESENTATIONS

During the MOIG workshop of Tunis we tried to make an overview of the Mediterranean issues related to OPRC. We remind you that the details of the different presentations made during this workshop can be found on MOIG website www.moig.org. For those who couldn't attend this workshop we give some of the subjects that were treated during the workshop:

- Recent evolution of oil production in the Mediterranean region.
- Example of recent simulation exercises between France, Italy and Spain.
- Country status profile. General overview by ITOPF and National presentations.
- Value of a regional action centre: The achievement of REMPEC.
- Latest development with the Barcelona Convention Framework.
- Illegal dumping of oil.
- REMPEC current work programme.
- MOIG current work programme.
- Technical presentations made by CEDRE, OSPRI, METEO FRANCE, INSTM.
- Principal of oil spill response auditing and evaluation.

Organisation of an extraordinary general meeting

During the AGM meeting, it was agreed that the next extraordinary MOIG General Meeting will take place in Egypt. This MOIG Egyptian Session will coincide with the major oil spill exercise that will be organized by PESCO during May 2004.

MOIG Director's visit to Libya

According to the MOIG Business Plan for 2004, the Director of MOIG will make a visit to Libya from 22 to 26 March 2004 this for Membership Development.

For further information or to make contributions to forthcoming issues of this Newsletter, please contact:

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