



FIFTH SIMA WORKSHOP WITH SHIP OPERATORS

Report

Solomon Islands Maritime Authority
<https://sima.gov.sb>

Purpose & Objective

The purpose of the workshop was to continue the dialogue established in previous workshops and meetings, aiming to strengthen communication between SIMA, ship owners/operators, and key stakeholders regarding matters affecting the maritime industry in Solomon Islands. The workshop's objective was to provide a platform for ship operators to discuss their challenges and to determine a path towards sustainable shipping in Solomon Islands. The theme for this year was *“Progressing National Strategies to support a Regional Framework for Sustainable Shipping in the Pacific.”*

Meeting Arrangements

Dates: 24 April 2025

Location: Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara.

Opening and presentations

Opening

The workshop was officially opened by Ms. Agnes Gaote'e, SIMA's Deputy Director. She delivered welcome remarks and a prayer, emphasizing SIMA's achievements since its establishment and its ongoing commitment to delivering its mandate. Mr. Thierry Nervale, Director of SIMA, delivered the keynote address. He reviewed the key outcomes from the previous year's ship operators' workshop and expressed his anticipation for effective improvements in seafarer employment, maritime training, and safety management on board domestic vessels. Mr. Nervale also underscored the collective responsibility to prevent maritime incidents, respond to emergencies, and shape a sustainable maritime future.



L-R: Director SIMA, Thierry Nervale, Deputy Director SIMA, Ms Agnes Gaote'e

Presentations and Interactive Session

Sustainable Maritime Employment

Ms. Brenda Oeta, Principal Officer Vessel Inspection, facilitated this session. It began with an opening presentation by Ms. Virginia Sina, Technical Officer Shipping Operations, on the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA). Ms. Sina highlighted the current status and future steps for seafarer

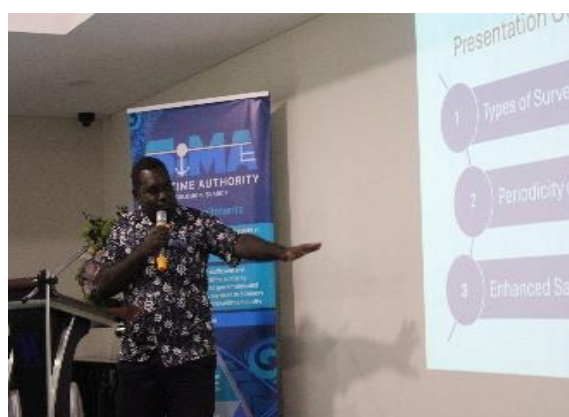
employment on domestic vessels, noting that SIMA would implement strict measures for the SEA plan. Following this, Ms. Leeane Kivolyn, Senior Officer Shipping Operations, presented on the status of seafarer qualifications and demand, identifying existing gaps. She also provided an update on the progress of the maritime college upgrade and the next steps involved. Both presentations concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session involving participants.



L-R: SIMA'S Technical Officer, Virginia Sina, SIMA's Senior Officer, Leeane Kivolyn

Raising Ship Safety Standards

Mr. Joash Bella, Senior Legal Officer, facilitated this session. The session commenced with an opening presentation by Mr. Benedict Teahui on the review of Vessel Inspection & Survey guidelines. He also discussed an enhanced safety programme, emphasizing the requirement to request vessel surveys three weeks prior to the desired survey date. Subsequently, Mr. George Tutu, Principal Officer Vessel Inspection, provided an update on Safety Management Systems (SMS) onboard domestic vessels. He urged ship operators to implement these systems on their vessels. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.



L-R: SIMA's Technical Officer, Benedict Teahui, SIMA's Principal Officer, George Tutu

Preventing & Responding to Air & Marine Pollution / SARPLAN / NATPLAN / Solomon Islands Plan for a Sustainable Maritime Future

Following this, Mr. Francis Pita, Officer Environment Protection and Safety, presented on SIMA's responsibilities concerning the prevention of and response to marine pollution. He then elaborated on SIMA's obligations and assistance in Search and Rescue (SAR), calling for cooperation from ship operators, particularly those with passenger vessels. Mr. Pita then handed over to Mr. Allen Ofea,

Principal Officer, Pollution and Safety, who outlined the vision and strategic actions for Solomon Islands' plan for a sustainable maritime future.



L-R: SIMA's Technical Officer, Francis Pita, SIMA's Principal Officer Allen Ofea

Engaging in Maritime Collaboration / Aligning to the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF)

The facilitator then introduced the second and final session. The opening presentation was delivered by Ms. Joy Ririmae, SIMTA's Secretary, who highlighted issues and challenges within the maritime industry. She urged all ship operators to become active members of SIMTA to effectively represent their interests and address these issues.

Subsequently, Ms. Diana Hill, the Solomon Islands seafarer representative, presented on the issues and challenges faced by seafarers. She concluded by stressing the importance of seafarers being active members of SISA and fostering improved maritime collaboration among SIMA, SIMTA, and SISA to resolve seafarer employment issues.

A discussion was engaged about the shortfalls from both parties and the need for ship operators, seafarers and SIMA to partner and resolve the issues raised.



L-R: SIMTA Secretary, Joy Ririmae, SISA Representative, Diana Hill

Following this, Ms. Caroline Keniasina, Technical Officer Strategic & Project Support, presented on the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF), detailing its purpose and value in contributing to a sustainable maritime future for the Pacific region. Mr. Thierry Nervale concluded the presentation, emphasizing the importance of engaging in consultations for the POMF, and the need to strengthen maritime training and education and harmonize ship safety standards at a regional level.

Closing & Outcomes

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from a Principal Officer of SIMA, who acknowledged the successful outcomes achieved through the participation of all guests and attendees and the following outcomes:

1. **Agreed** to submit SEAs and **acknowledged** SIMA's strict measures to implement the SEA Plan, measures which would include detention of vessels at the first periodic survey in 2025-2026 if no SEA submitted.
2. **Acknowledged** ship operators' responsibility to train their employee seafarers but **requested** SIMA and partners to support training of seafarers and provision of scholarships to meet the needs for sustainable maritime employment, noting the project to upgrade the Solomon Islands Maritime College.
3. **Encouraged** ship operators to implement SMS and preventive maintenance onboard their vessel(s).
4. **Agreed** to request survey of vessels 3 weeks before the requested date of survey.
5. **Called** partners to support and develop maritime infrastructure and ship maintenance facilities (ports, wharves, slipways and shipyards).
6. **Requested** SIMA flexibility in implementing change particularly on SEA noting the need to train more seafarers.
7. **Acknowledged** and supported the establishment of the Solomon Islands Seafarer Association (SISA) noting the issues raised by seafarers related to their working conditions and welfare and the issues raised by ship operators regarding the competency and behaviour of seafarers.
8. **Called** all ship operators to be active members of SIMTA to represent the interest of the ship operators and called all seafarers to be active members of SISA; SIMA, SIMTA and SISA to work together to resolve issues related to employment of seafarers particularly Master Class 3.
9. **Acknowledged** the development of the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF) and the need to strengthen maritime training and education and harmonise ship safety standards at the regional level.

Annex – Workshop Agenda

Fifth SIMA Workshop with Vessel Operators

24 April 2025 – Heritage Park Hotel

PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda Item		Presenters
Wednesday 24 April 2025			
0830 – 0900	Registration		SIMA
OPENING/PRESENTATION			
Facilitator – Rachel Bare Anita Manager, Environment Protection & Safety			
0900 – 0905	Administrative Matters		Semaika Abiah, SIMA Administration Officer
0905 – 0910	Welcome Remarks and Prayer		Agnes Gaote'e, SIMA Deputy Director
0910 – 0915	keynote Address		Thierry Nervale, SIMA Director
0915 – 1000	1	Sustainable Maritime Employment <i>Seafarer Employment Agreement: status & next steps</i> <i>Seafarer Qualification & demand: status & gaps</i> <i>Upgrade of the Maritime College: progress & next steps</i> Discussion	Virginia Sina, Technical Officer Shipping Operations Leeane Kivolyn Senior Officer Shipping Operations
1000 – 1030	Group Photo & Morning Tea		
SESSION 1 – Shipping Operations and Safety			
Facilitator – Brenda Oeta, Principal Officer, Vessel inspection			
1030 – 1115	2	Raising Ship Safety Standards <i>Vessel Inspection & Survey Guidelines: review</i> <i>Enhanced Safety Programme for Landing Crafts: presentation</i> <i>Safety Management Systems Implementation: update</i> Discussion	Benedict Teahui Technical Officer Vessel Inspection George Tutu Principal Officer Vessel Inspection
1115 – 1200	3	Preventing & Responding to Air & Marine Pollution <i>SARPLAN</i> <i>NATPLAN</i> <i>Solomon Islands Plan for a Sustainable Maritime Future</i> Discussion	Francis Pita, Technical Officer Sustainable Shipping Allen Ofea Principal Officer Pollution and Safety
1200 –1300	Lunch		

SESSION 2 – Environment Protection & Safety

Facilitator – Joash Bella, Senior Legal Officer

1300 – 1400	4	Engaging in Maritime Collaboration <i>Solomon Islands Maritime Transport Association: update</i> <i>Solomon Islands Seafarers Association: update</i> <i>Main issues & way forward</i>	Joy Ririmae SIMTA Secretary. Diana Hill SISA Rep.
1400 – 1530	5	Aligning to the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF) <i>POMF presentation</i> <i>Discussion & Feedback</i>	Thierry Nervale Director SIMA Caroline Keniasina Technical Officer Strategic & Project Support
1530 – 1545	6	Outcomes, Wrap Up & Closing	Brenda Oeta Principal Officer Vessel Inspection
1545 – 1600	Afternoon Tea		



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