

FACTSHEET ON THE TRIPARTITE TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP (TTEG)

The Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG) was established by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in 1975 in recognition of the importance of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for international navigation. This reflects the littoral states' commitment in ensuring navigational safety, protecting the marine environment, and facilitating the movement of ships in and through the Straits.

The TTEG, comprising experts from the maritime administrations of the three littoral States, meets annually to discuss and collaborate on issues to enhance navigational safety and protection of the marine environment, as well as other traffic management measures in the Straits.

The TTEG is hosted and chaired by the littoral States in turn. The 35th TTEG will be hosted and chaired by Indonesia this year, while the 33rd TTEG was hosted and chaired by Malaysia in 2008 and the 34th TTEG by Singapore in 2009.

Through the TTEG, the littoral States have co-operated to introduce a number of initiatives to enhance navigational safety and protection of the marine environment in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

One key initiative was the Routeing System which incorporated a Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and rules for vessels moving in the Straits. In implementing the Routeing System, the three littoral States conducted joint hydrographic surveys in the Straits, carried out tidal and current studies, and installed new aids to navigation to support the TSS. The Routeing System was approved by the International Maritime Organization in 1977 and implemented in 1981.

Another major initiative embarked on by the TTEG in 1993 was the mandatory ship reporting system (or STRAITREP) in the Straits. This system was to enable the shore-based authorities to update transiting ships on the traffic situation and to contribute positively towards search and rescue response and operations to marine incidents in the Straits. The STRAITREP was implemented in 1998.

The three littoral States also established the Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore in 2007 to facilitate cooperation with user States and other key stakeholders on issues of navigational safety and marine environment protection to keep the Straits safe and open for international navigation.

These initiatives have been successful in enhancing navigational safety protection of the marine environment, as well as reducing the risk of marine incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.