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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
36th session
Agenda item 11

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DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIP'S BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS

Voluntary guidelines in the form of a model course

Submitted by India

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides the proposal for the preparation of voluntary guidelines in the form of a model course

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: MEPC 52/20/1, STW 35/19

1 The Convention for Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments was adopted on 13 February 2004 and has not yet come in force. The factual scenario regarding Ballast Water pollution however exists, and the IMO through its Project Co-ordinating Unit has already initiated countrywide studies. India has very actively participated in the study and has initiated an immense amount of training and awareness within the country to acknowledge the effects of Ballast Water Pollution.

2 India considers that it would be premature to develop mandatory training requirements within the STCW Convention before the entry into force. Given the fact that a training programme already exists within the IMO initiated Ballast Water Programme, it would be more appropriate if voluntary guidance in the form of the model course could be developed.

3 The objective of the course would be to build a core of human resources in key aspects of better ballast water management practices as a means of minimizing the spread of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens; this to be achieved through developing and implementing a response to the IMO Guidelines/drafts Convention at both the local and regional levels.

4 This would be an introductory course for personnel having different skills knowledge and experience in ballast-water related issues and provide a common set of knowledge and skills to all participants to enable them to take appropriate action on this issue for purposes of capacity building and premeditating the problem.

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5 India has gained considerable experience in dealing with issues of training and the training methodology in this particular area and has considerable experience in the Ballast Water Training Programme and the awareness programme within the GloBallast project.

6 India proposes to structure two core courses in accordance with Ballast Water Management Guidelines namely:

- .1 Shipboard Ballast Water Management officer training course; and
- .2 Port Ballast Water Management officer training course

7 In case the Sub-Committee is agreeable to this proposal, India volunteers to develop these model courses, free of cost to the Organization.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

8 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above proposal and decide as appropriate.
