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20 February 2017

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Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE STATUS OF CONSULTANTS
AT RAC/REMPEITC-CARIBE**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.



RAC-REMPEITC
Caribe



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

20 Feb 2016

**Supplemental Documents Related to
the Status of Consultants at RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe**

Attachments:

- (1) Appeal to Focal Points**
- (2) Minutes Informal Meeting Regarding the Future of the REMPEITC-Caribe held at MEPC 69**
- (3) 23 November 2016 USCG Letter to IMO**



RAC-REMPEITC
Caribe

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY,
INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**



21 March 2016

National Focal Points of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe
Stakeholders of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

Subject: Letter of Appeal

Dear Focal Points and Stakeholders,

Last June RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe celebrated 20 years of service to the 36 states and territories of the Wider Caribbean Region. Each year RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe facilitates the distribution of more than \$375,000 of international aid by organizing regional and national activities. The Centre trains an annual average of 225 maritime professionals and systematically improves preparedness to respond effectively to pollution incidents as well as facilitates compliance with international shipping standards. These accomplishments have been possible because of your collaboration and the support of countries like the United States, the Netherlands, Venezuela, and France that have provided International Maritime Organization (IMO) consultants to the Centre over the years.

At present the Centre's numerous activities are executed by the U.S. and French consultants that currently serve at RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe. However, after 13 years of generous support, I have been informed that the funding of the French IMO consultant will be suspended when the current consultant's contract expires this May. Should support for a replacement consultant not be found, this would have the detrimental consequence of cutting our capacity to execute our missions by more than half, as well as threaten the effective continuation of the Centre's work.

I am currently working with IMO and the United Nations Environment Programme to identify solutions that will allow RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to, at a minimum, maintain its current operational capacity. In this connection, the IMO has offered to convene a meeting of interested delegations during the 69th meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee in London commencing the week of 22 April 2016. The goal of this meeting will be to discuss and identify possible solutions to this issue, namely the possibilities for sourcing a replacement consultant.

I respectfully request you encourage your delegation to MEPC 69 to attend this meeting and that you ensure they are aware of the many benefits RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has brought to your country, territory, or organization and the Wider Caribbean Region.

*Regional Activity Center / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center
Wider Caribbean Region*

*Seru Mahuma z/n, Aviation and Meteorology Building, Curaçao
Phone: 5999-868-4612 / 868-3409; Fax: 5999-868-4996; Email: rempeitc@cep.unep.org*

I greatly appreciate your assistance as we seek to maintain the high level of productivity, professionalism and value the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region have come to expect from RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and I welcome any additional solution you may suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Mr Benjamin Allee
Director
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

Annex I

Job description/functions and duties of the Consultant/Expert

1. Duties and responsibilities

The seconded Consultant/Expert will be responsible for the management and the overall coordination of all activities and strategic development of the Centre including (but not limited to) the following:

- Liaise with International Organizations (UNEP, IMO), industry partners (ARPEL, IPIECA) and NGOs (ITOPF, CEDRE, OSRL ex CCA);
- Liaise with the national representatives;
- Ensure timely implementation/coordination of the Centre's activities through systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- Prepare and monitor the implementation of contracts with experts/consultants and Memoranda with partners;
- Coordinate the organization and follow-up of training and capacity building workshops;
- Ensure the technical and financial reporting to funding partners;
- Contribute to the liaison of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe with the Steering Committee and his Chairman;
- Write or update communication material required by the Centre (website, social pages, brochure, banners, video, etc.);
- Update RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's country profile database and administer the web-GIS on marine traffic;
- Attend, as a representative of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, national and international events (meetings, workshops, field surveys and environmental assessments, etc.) and promote the interests of the Centre and those of the Cartagena Convention in other fora;
- Contribute in servicing RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe institutional meetings;
- Contribute to team and staff meetings; and
- Undertake other duties as required by the Director of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe in relation with its missions and objectives.

2. Required profile and qualifications

All candidates for this position must provide evidence of the following:

Education, knowledge and experience

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental studies, engineering, maritime affairs, maritime law, marine biology or related fields. A background in marine environment would be an advantage;
- At least three years or relevant experience in management/development/monitoring of multi-partner environmental projects (delivery, budgeting, reporting, writing publications, organizing meetings and workshops) and environmental policy coordination and/or related field, including at least two years at the international level; and
- Previous experience in the Wider Caribbean Region is desirable.

Skills and competencies

- Excellent project management skills;
 - Ability to interact with tact and diplomacy;
 - Interest in marine sciences and policies;
 - Ability to work independently, innovatively and collaboratively with colleagues in order to achieve organizational goals;
 - Ability to plan and prioritize workloads and capability of meeting deadlines;
 - Persistence when problems or challenges appear;
 - Excellent interpersonal skills, especially within multicultural/multilingual settings;
 - Proficiency in MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Additional working knowledge of MS Access and HTML would be an asset;
 - Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Working knowledge of French or Spanish is an asset; and
 - Willingness to undertake a large amount of travel abroad.
-

Annex II

Personal costs and services associated with the Seconded Consultants/Experts

An indication of the personal costs and services associated with the seconded Consultants/Experts is found below:

- Salary, housing/medical care if not part of the salary, and schooling for dependents of the seconded Consultant/Expert are to be covered in full by the seconding country;
 - Travel costs incurred in initially reporting to the Centre (and departing upon completion of term) by the seconded Consultant/Expert will be borne by the seconding country;
 - The Government of Curaçao will arrange for the issuance of a work visa for the seconded Consultant/Expert; and
 - The Government of Curaçao will arrange for a duty-free import of two cars of the Seconded Consultant/Expert.
-

INFORMAL MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF THE REMPEITC-Caribe

**Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 13:00
Committee Room 14, IMO Headquarters**

Introduction

An informal meeting was held on Tuesday 19th April 2016 between IMO Secretariat and the delegations from the Wider Caribbean Region attending MEPC 69. The meeting was attended by representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, France, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands and Saint Lucia and was intended to discuss the current situation and the future of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe).

The meeting, organized by the IMO Secretariat, was chaired by Mr. Dandu Pughiuc, Senior Deputy Director, Sub-Division for Implementation, Marine Environment Division, and attended by Mr. Jose Matheickal, Head of ITCP and Major Projects, Ms Patricia Charlebois, Head, Carriage of Chemicals in Bulk, Mr. Antoine Blonce, Technical Adviser and Ms Laura Mateos Moya, Principal Secretary, also from the IMO Secretariat.

Mr. Pughiuc welcomed delegates and introduced the purpose of the meeting:

- Inform of the current situation of the centre; and
- Invite delegations to provide their views on the situation.

Current Situation

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was established 20 years ago with the purpose to provide technical assistance to Caribbean countries and to promote the implementation of the IMO International Conventions relating to marine pollution with particular focus on OPRC Convention. The centre is staffed with two international experts who provide most of the technical training; a consultant seconded by France and supported by Total and a consultant seconded by United States and supported by the USCG. Recently IMO has been informed by Total about their intention to suspend the support of the French consultant. This decision has obvious consequences for the long term sustainability of the centre as it leaves only one expert to undertake all the technical work. Moreover there is the risk that this situation triggers a decision by the United States to also discontinue its support to the centre with technical expertise.

The representative of France re-affirmed the interest of the French Government in continuing its support to the Centre and informed about their on-going efforts to identify alternative solutions to continue their support for the region.

Alternatives suggested during the meeting

Support from other oil companies

Some delegations suggested to approach other major oil companies operating in the region such as Rubis, whose Head Office is located in Barbados and is present in most of the Eastern Caribbean Islands. Recognizing the intergovernmental nature of IMO, it was suggested to approach first the Government of Barbados in order to explore such an arrangement involving Rubis.

It was suggested that to initiate the process of approaching new oil companies, it would be useful to take in consideration the model that was used in the past during the negotiations

with Total to support the provision of an expert to the Centre. It was believed that any future negotiation should emphasize the benefit and the visibility that a potential sponsor may enjoy from such an arrangement.

Consultant seconded by one of the Caribbean countries

Recognizing the availability of highly trained and talented experts in the Caribbean Region, another solution suggested was the provision of a consultant seconded from one of the Caribbean countries. The IMO Secretariat has agreed to write to interested Governments in order to explore this possibility.

Next steps

Since the next RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee meeting will be held next month, it was suggested to propose the above solutions to be considered by the Committee. It was also suggested to advise the organizers to invite the participation of representatives of oil companies in this meeting if the rules allow it.

All the participants in the meeting were encouraged to attend the Steering Committee and formally express their support to the Centre.

It was agreed that further action will need to be coordinated within the Cartagena Convention framework and the delegates were encouraged to jointly explore future possibilities with their counterparts in their National Environment Agencies. It was also suggested to discuss possible future options during the CARICOM Heads meeting in July 2016.

IMO Secretariat has agreed to continue to share information on further developments with the interested Parties and a mailing list was prepared in this respect.



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE,
STOP 7516
Washington, DC 20593-7516
Staff Symbol: CG-MER
Phone: (202) 372-2231
Email: Joseph.B.Loring@uscg.mil

16452
November 23, 2016

Mr. Stefan Micallef
Director, Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Micallef,

On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, I am writing to inform you of our intent to reprogram the U.S. Coast Guard officer billet currently designated as International Maritime Organization (IMO) Detached Duty in Curacao, assigned at the Regional Activity Centre / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center for the Wider Caribbean Region (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe). The process of reassigning this billet will be initiated now so as to take effect by May 2018, at the end of the two-year assignment of the officer currently in this position.

Since its establishment in 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard's support to RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has been instrumental in carrying out the Centre's mission. An informal meeting regarding the future of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was held on the margins of the 69th Session of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee on April 19, 2016. When the full-time consultant from France was removed on May 30, 2016, the Senior IMO Consultant provided by the U.S. Coast Guard was left as the sole consultant at the Centre. I understand that additional full-time support from other nations or organizations has still not been secured at this time. We believe one consultant is not a sustainable option to carry out the vast mission set of the Centre, and without additional full-time support, the U.S. Coast Guard cannot remain at the Centre to operate independently.

We may revisit our decision to reassign the billet if IMO secures additional full-time consultants from a sponsor nation before May 2017. I look forward to defining a way forward that continues to build pollution preparedness and response capabilities in the Wider Caribbean Region. For additional information, or to discuss our intentions further, please contact my representatives Commander Thomas Ottenwaelder at thomas.a.ottenwaelder@uscg.mil or (+1)(202) 372-2264, or Commander Keith Donohue at kdonohue@cep.unep.org or (+5999) 839-3719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.B. Loring", is written over the typed name and title.

J. B. LORING
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy

Copy: U.S. Department of State
UNEP-CAR/RCU
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe
IMO TCD

Dr. Lorna Inniss
Coordinator, UNEP-CAR/RCU
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica

Mr. Benjamin Allee
Director, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe
Aviation and Meteorology Building
Seru Mahurna z/n
Curacao

Mr. Carlos Salgado
International Maritime Organization
Technical Co-operation Division
Head, Latin America and Caribbean Section
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom



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EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

20 Feb 2016

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Stakeholders of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

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United States Coast Guard

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16452
November 23, 2016

Mr. Stefan Micallef
Director, Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Micallef,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.B. Loring", is written over the typed name and title.

J. B. LORING
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy

Copy: U.S. Department of State
UNEP-CAR/RCU
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe
IMO TCD

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Coordinator, UNEP-CAR/RCU
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Mr. Benjamin Allee
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Aviation and Meteorology Building
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Curacao

Mr. Carlos Salgado
International Maritime Organization
Technical Co-operation Division
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