



**GULF OF THAILAND COOPERATION:
A SUB-REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON OIL SPILL
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

Soontharee Pirom and Diana Factuar

A photograph of a beach scene. The foreground shows dark, rocky terrain with waves crashing against it. The water is a deep blue, and several people are visible in the distance, some appearing to be swimming or wading. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene suggests a coastal environment, possibly affected by an oil spill as indicated by the title.

OIL SPILL AS A TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE



- ❑ Rapid increase of petroleum consumption around the world including the Gulf of Thailand sub-region
- ❑ Increased the potential of oil spills during production and transportation activities making it vulnerable to oil pollution
- ❑ **The need for inter-governmental and multi-sectoral collaboration to protect the marine and coastal resources in the GOT region**

SITUATION PRIOR TO THE GOT COOPERATION

Cambodia

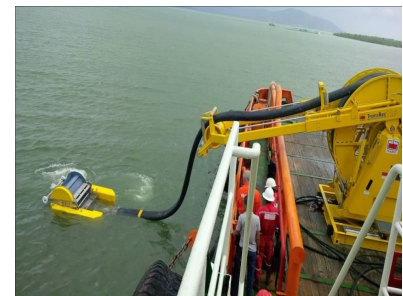
- ❖ Lack of a national regulation identifying the lead agency for oil spill related matters
- ❖ Lack of a national system for oil spill preparedness and response
- ❖ Lack of people with capacity to respond to oil spills

Thailand

- ❖ National regulation relating to oil spill preparedness and response in place
- ❖ National system for oil spill preparedness and response plan in place (contingency plan, stockpile of equipment, trained manpower)
- ❖ Strong government- industry cooperation

Vietnam

- ❖ Lead agency for oil spill preparedness and response unclear
- ❖ Oil spill response center in Vietnam not operationalized

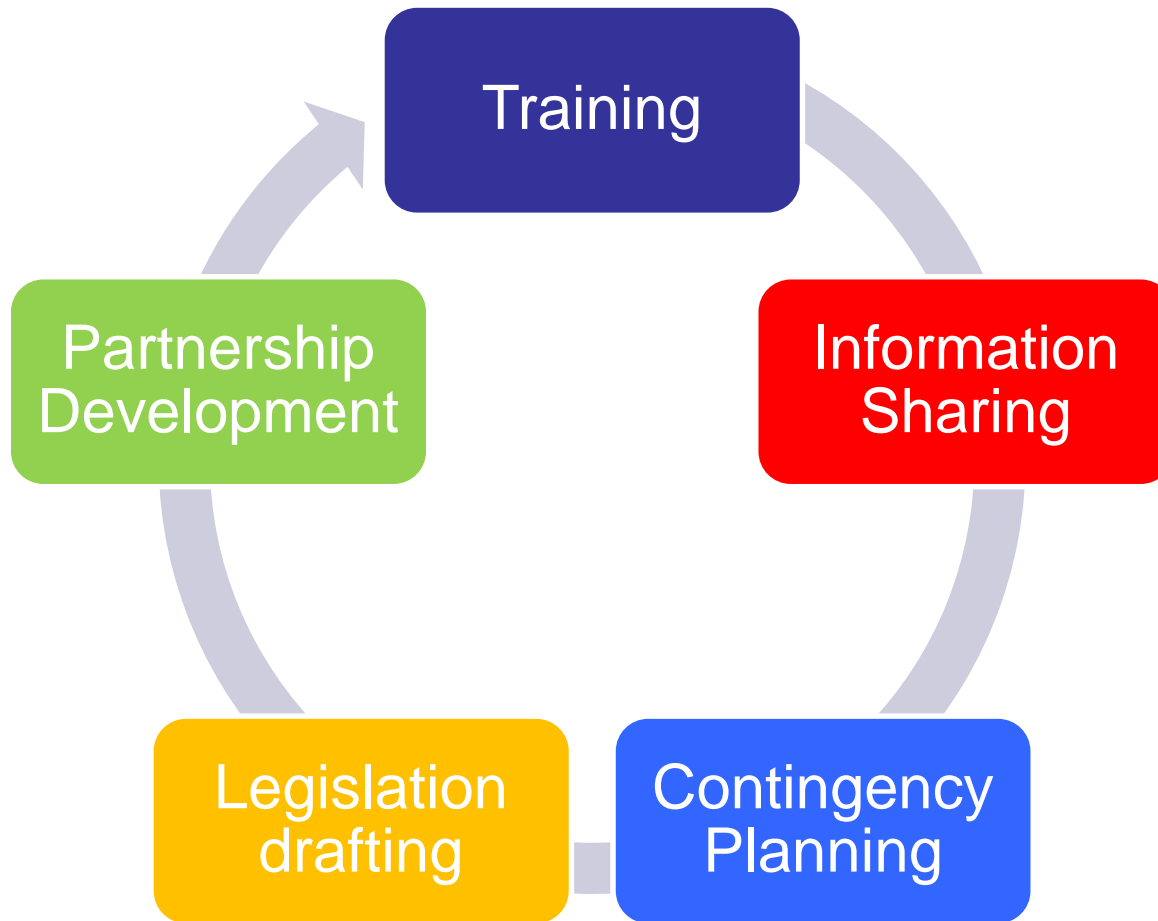


RESPONSE TO TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT ISSUES



- ❑ Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand signed by 3 littoral states (Jan 2006)
- ❑ Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the GOT adopted by 3 littoral States (Jan 2006)
- ❑ OPRC Convention as the framework for building subregional and national system for oil spill preparedness and response

CAPACITY BUILDING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS : 2006-2017

Cambodia

- ❖ National oil spill contingency plan of Cambodia drafted
- ❖ Sub-decree on establishing the national oil spill response system in Cambodia drafted
- ❖ Guidelines on the Use of Dispersants drafted

Thailand

- ❖ SOP for Oil Spill Claims(Fisheries and Aquaculture) developed
- ❖ Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Chonburi Province developed
- ❖ Revision and Updating of National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- ❖ Updating of National Guidelines on Dispersant Use for oil spills

Vietnam

- ❖ Oil spill contingency plan for the southern region of Vietnam developed
- ❖ National southern oil spill response center in Vietnam operationalized
- ❖ Response vessels and response equipment acquired
- ❖ Legislation on various aspects of oil spill response issued



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS : SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ GOT Information Sharing System/Website
- ❖ GOT Environmental Sensitivity Index Atlas
- ❖ Sub-regional Training and Workshops



Strategic Action Plan for Oil Spill Readiness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand 2017–2021



Gulf of Thailand Oil Spill Readiness and Response

Strategic Action Plan 2017-2021

Strategic Goals

- Strategic Goal 1: Enhance Policy and Regulatory Environment for Oil Spill Response
- Strategic Goal 2: Strengthen Sub-regional Coordinating Mechanism
- Strategic Goal 3: Promote Contingency Planning from Sub-regional to Local Level
- Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen Information and Resource Sharing System
- Strategic Goal 5: Implement a Comprehensive Capacity Development Programme
- Strategic Goal 6: Strengthen Information and Resource Sharing System
- Strategic Goal 7: Promote Collaborative Arrangements and Partnership
- Strategic Goal 8: Increase Access to Sustainable Financing

Strategic Goal 1

Objective: To put in place or update national legislation to strengthen oil spill readiness and response system at sub-regional and local level

Actions

- Develop/update national legislation to establish and implement an effective national system for oil spill readiness and response system: **2017**
- Seek technical assistance to enact and implement national legislation : **2017-2020**

Strategic Goal 2

Objective : To strengthen existing coordinating mechanism to facilitate sub-regional arrangement in oil spill response in the Gulf of Thailand

Action

- Establish and operationalize a permanent secretariat for GOT Cooperation: **2017-2021 NCP Meeting**

Strategic Goal 3

Objectives: 1. To establish an effective sub-regional oil spill response system and update national and local contingency plans to ensure consistency with current practices, technological and scientific advances and changes in national and international maritime regimes

Actions

- Review and update national contingency plans: **2017**
- Develop sub-regional oil spill contingency plan: **2017-2018**
- Develop technical guidelines for contingency planning at the local level: **2019**

Strategic Goal 4

Objective : To facilitate effective communication and efficient flow of information and to promote exchange of good practices in oil spill readiness and response among GOT participating countries.

Actions

- Strengthen GOT web-based information sharing system: **2017**
- Publish case studies on oil spill contingency planning at the local level (English/local language) **2019**
- Publish case studies on oil spill claims: **2020**

Strategic Goal 5

Objective: To enhance sub-regional, national and local capacities in oil spill readiness, response and claims and compensation

Actions

- Organize and conduct regular training programs (sub-regional: 2017-2021, national and local: 2017-2021)
- Promote acquisition of oil spill response equipment (2018)
- Organize joint oil spill response exercises (tabletop: during NCP Meeting and mobilization of equipment: as soon as practical)

Strategic Goal 6

Objective: To identify new tools, methodologies and technologies to ensure an effective and “fit for purpose” system of oil spill response for the GOT region

Actions

- Develop sub-regional and national guidelines on the use of chemical dispersants: **2017**
- Develop national guidelines on ESI mapping: **2018**

Strategic Goal 7

Objective: To establish a strategic partnership of governments, international organizations, industry and stakeholders working together to achieve a shared vision of responding effectively to oil spill in the Gulf of Thailand

Actions

- Promote joint government-industry training (continuing)
- Promote government-industry oil spill response exercise (continuing)
- Co-organize with international organizations or oil industry for sharing of expertise on various OSR aspects (2019)

Strategic Goal 8

Objective: To develop financing mechanisms to sustain the GOT cooperation and to implement planned programmes for 2017-2021

Actions

- Incorporate planned programmes and projects as identified in the SA{P into the NCP's annual budget plans (2017-2020)
- Develop and submit project proposals to funding organizations, international organizations and potential donors (2018)

MOVING FORWARD



LESSONS LEARNED

- ❑ Strengthened interconnectivity of oil spill preparedness and response from regional to local level results to more effective response;
- ❑ Local governments play an important role in increasing level of national OSR preparedness and response;
- ❑ Integration of stakeholders (esp. industry, academe) into overall system of preparedness and response is imperative;
- ❑ Partnership with the industry and academe brings better OSR capability in the region.

