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Circular Letter No.4824
15 January 2024

To: All IMO Members States in the African region
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Notification of a joint IMO/INTERFERRY regional seminar on Africa Ferry Safety, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, April 2024**

1 IMO and INTERFERRY are jointly organizing a regional seminar on ferry safety for Member States in the Africa region, to be held on 16 and 17 April 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The seminar will be hosted by the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) with the support of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Tanzania.

2 The objective of the seminar is the promotion and enhancement of the safety aspects of domestic ferry operations. Domestic ferry accidents, often resulting in an unacceptably high number of casualties, still occur much too frequently. The seminar will address common problems, including, among others, ticketing and overcrowding, loading/stowage, design and construction failure, and lack of insurance.

3 In recent years, the IMO Secretariat has carried out extensive work to enhance domestic ferry safety. The Organization's efforts, supported by international organizations, yielded tangible outcomes, culminating in the adoption of the Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety ([resolution MSC.518\(105\)](#)) by the Maritime Safety Committee in April 2022.

4 The seminar, sponsored by IMO, is open, by invitation only, to those African Member States most affected by domestic ferry accidents. Sponsorship will support the participation of two pre-qualified delegates per selected Member State. The seminar will be conducted in English only, without interpretation.

5 A provisional programme with suggested discussion topics, subject to further modifications, is attached to the annex. Further information, including an updated programme, will be provided to the invited Member States upon registration.

6 An official invitation letter with a registration link will be sent to relevant Member States in due course. For enquiries about the seminar, please contact the Secretariat at tjismerv@imo.org and akirkukl@imo.org.

ANNEX

**JOINT IMO/INTERFERRY REGIONAL SEMINAR ON AFRICA FERRY SAFETY
16 and 17 April 2024**

**Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JICC)
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**16 April 2024
DAY 1**

SESSION	
09:00-09:30	OPENING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Status update on domestic ferry safety
09:30-10:00	COFFEE BREAK
PANEL 1 10:00-11:00	TICKETING & PASSENGER COUNTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Affordable ticketing solution & turnstile counting of passengers● Panel discussion● Q & A
PANEL 2 11:00-12:00	LOADING/STOWAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rigorous enforcement of loading, lashing and stowage● Panel discussion● Q & A
12:00-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
PANEL 3 13:30-14:30	VESSEL DESIGN AND CLASSIFICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">● New builds vs. existing vessels● Classification● Panel discussion● Q & A
14:30-15:00	COFFEE BREAK
PANEL 4 15:00-16:00	INSURANCE & FINANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Insurance● Operators' challenges with insurance and financing● Panel discussion● Q & A
16:00-16:15	CONCLUSION REMARKS FOR DAY 1
16:15-18:00	FERRY CROSSING TO ZANZIBAR

17 April 2024
DAY 2

SESSION	
PANEL 5 09:00-10:00	POLITICAL WILL <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Global outlook● Panel discussion● Q & A
10:00-10:15	HISTORICAL FERRY EXPERIENCE OF TANZANIA
PANEL 6 10:15-11:15	SAFETY MANAGEMENT CULTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Safety Management System● Training & certification● Crew retention● Cooperation with academies and institutions● Panel discussion● Q & A
11:15-11:45	COFFEE BREAK
PANEL 7 11:45-12:45	NAVIGATION & INCIDENT REPORTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ship operator presents navigational challenges● Weather dependent routeing● Data collection● Casualty investigation● Panel discussion● Q & A
12:45-14:15	LUNCH BREAK
PANEL 8 14:15-15:15	TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Learning lessons from the ISM Code● Engine room systems● Life-saving appliances● Fire-fighting equipment● Maintenance and repairs● Panel discussion● Q & A
15:15-15:45	COFFEE BREAK
15:45-16:45	PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
16:45-17:15	PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES
17:15-17:45	CLOSING REMARKS
17:45	END OF DAY 2 & DEPARTURES