



PRESS RELEASE

New Leadership at ITOPF

Dr Tosh Moller, who has been ITOPF's Managing Director for 5 years, will retire in May 2009 after 30 years with the organisation. At its meeting on 12th November 2008, the ITOPF Board of Directors appointed as his successor, Dr Karen Purnell, who is currently one of ITOPF's three Technical Team Managers.

The ITOPF Board has also approved the creation of a new position of Technical Director to which Mr Hugh Parker is appointed with immediate effect. Mr Parker, who has been a Technical Team Manager for the last 10 years of his 28-year career at ITOPF plans to retire from full-time employment in September 2009. The position of Technical Director will then be filled by Mr Richard Johnson, currently a Technical Team Manager and with 14 years at ITOPF.

Dr Karen Purnell is a graduate of the Royal Society of Chemistry, with a PhD in chemical physics. Before joining ITOPF in 1994, she worked on toxic waste management and environmental remediation in the nuclear industry and as a research chemist at several universities in the west of England.

In the course of her 14 years as a technical adviser at ITOPF Dr Purnell has attended many ship-sourced pollution incidents, including the PRESTIGE in Spain. She was promoted to Technical Team Manager in 2003, since when she has acquired an in-depth knowledge of ITOPF's role and its mission through participation in, and management of, ITOPF's core activities. Dr Purnell has established a constructive dialogue with shipowners and is highly respected in the maritime world. Her mission is to maintain ITOPF's position as the world's prime centre of expertise on the control of ship-source pollution incidents, whilst continuing development in the areas of HNS (Hazardous & Noxious Substances) spill response and environmental damage assessment.

Her analytical approach and training as a chemist have served Dr Purnell well in dealing with the many complex technical issues arising in connection with pollution incidents, such as the use of chemical dispersants, an area of particular expertise. Prominent amongst her personal achievements is the expansion of ITOPF's capacity to respond to HNS spills and overseeing an internal programme of emergency response planning, training and exercises. She has also been responsible for developing and strengthening relationships with Trustee groups in the USA and has been working closely with US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Department of the Interior and the International Group of P&I Clubs on environmental issues.

Mr Hugh Parker, a chemist by background, is the most senior member of ITOPF's spill response team, having attended some 100 spills around the world. His position as Technical Director reflects his achievement of maintaining and developing the strategic direction in ITOPF's core activity of spill response.

On Mr Parker's planned retirement from full-time employment in September 2009, the post of ITOPF Technical Director will pass to Mr Richard Johnson, who has been responsible for the delivery of expert technical services across the whole spectrum of ITOPF's work in the field of oil and chemical pollution, with emphasis on spill response, damage assessment, contingency planning and provision of training. He is a marine biologist with a BSc Honours degree from Newcastle University (1987) and an MSc in Radiation & Environmental Protection. In his 14 years at ITOPF he has attended numerous spills, including leading the ITOPF spill team responding to the HEBEI SPIRIT incident in South Korea, the most significant response in the history of ITOPF.

Before joining ITOPF, Mr Johnson worked in a scientific and engineering consultancy group on a variety of government-sponsored programmes, including advising the UK government on the fate of radionuclide fall-out following the *Chernobyl* nuclear disaster in Ukraine. In the course of his work Mr Johnson managed a number of scientific projects leading to the development of training manuals, codes of practice and other publications.

Notes on ITOPF:

1. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) was established as a non-profit making service organisation in 1968. In the early days its principal function was the administration of the TOVALOP voluntary oil spill compensation agreement. However, for the past 37 years ITOPF has also provided a broad range of technical services in the field of marine pollution to and on behalf of shipowners, their P&I insurers and other groups such as the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, as well as to the community at large.

2. ITOPF's Membership currently comprises some 5,500 owners and bareboat charterers of more than 9,800 tank vessels with a total gross tonnage of about 277 million GT. The organisation also benefits from the participation of some 465 million GT of non-tanker tonnage owned and operated by its Associates.

3. ITOPF's priority service is responding to accidental marine spills and the organisation's team of highly experienced technical staff are at constant readiness to travel anywhere in the world at a few hours' notice. Since 1978 ITOPF staff have attended on-site at some 600 incidents around the world, giving the organisation unparalleled practical experience of the realities of combating major marine spills. ITOPF also:

- assesses the damage caused by spills to the environment and economic resources;
- provides advice on the technical merits of claims for compensation;
- conducts contingency planning, advisory and training assignments;
- produces a wide range of technical publications; and
- maintains various databases as well as a website at <http://www.itopf.com>

4. For further information contact:

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