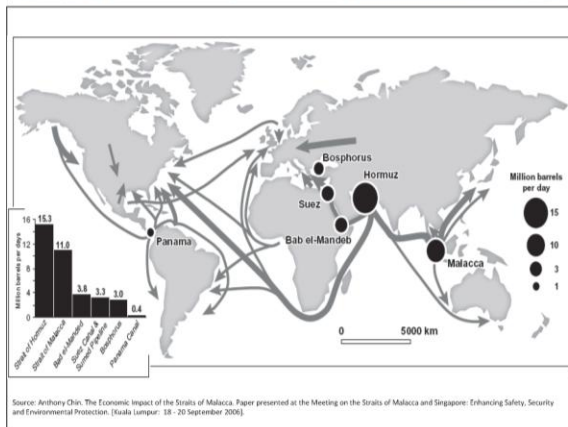


MIMA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE STRAITS – MS CHERYL RITA KAUR

MIMA MARITIME INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA
INSTITUT MARITIM MALAYSIA

MIMA's Contribution towards Policy Development
in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Mohd Nizam Basiron and Cheryl Rita Kaur
Centre for Straits of Malacca
MIMA



Background

- The Straits of Malacca and Singapore is a good example of a multiple-use sea area.
- Shipping coexists with fisheries, tourism and more importantly extensive marine ecosystems.
- Managing the Straits require balancing between its different uses.
- As a maritime policy think-tank, MIMA has played a role in the development of national and international policies on the Straits.

About MIMA

- MIMA is a maritime policy think-tank established in 1993 to research on all maritime policy matters.
- MIMA's work covers the following areas:
 - coastal and marine environment
 - maritime law
 - maritime security and diplomacy
 - maritime economics
- Geographically it includes all Malaysia's sea areas.
- Straits of Malacca and Singapore is a priority area given its national, regional and international significance.

MIMA's work on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

- Focuses on all aspects of the Straits.
- Early work focuses on promoting the idea of international cooperation in safety of navigation and environment protection in the Straits in line with Article 43 of UNCLOS
 - until 2008 only Japan was contributing
 - now contribution is received from many countries and international bodies
- MIMA contributed towards raising awareness through its publications and conferences.

MIMA's work on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

- Work on safety of navigation and environment protection continues with new focus on vessel movement in the Straits:
 - study on carrying capacity of the Straits
 - study on cross-straits traffic and risks to navigation
 - study on impact of shipping on the environment
 - study on international shipping conventions e.g., ballast water conventions, anti-fouling convention and MARPOL 73/78
 - study of national legislation of littoral States

MIMA's work on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

- As part of its work MIMA also analysed maritime security issues in the Straits.
- Piracy and sea robbery have been largely brought under control and no cases were reported last year.
- It was however a major concern between 2001 – 2006.

MIMA Conference on the Straits of Malacca series

- Started in 1994 and to date six MIMA international conference on the Straits of Malacca have been organised.
- Served as opportunity for exchange of views among all stakeholders.
- Also as catalyst for new ideas.
- Proceedings have been published.

MIMA Centre for the Straits of Malacca

- Launched in 2008.
- Responsible for conducting and coordinating MIMA's research on the Straits.
- Pioneered study on carrying capacity and cross straits traffic in the Straits.
- Also assisted others in their research.

Projects Highlight - 2011

- Implementation of Multilateral Agreements and International Conventions for the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment from Vessel Source Pollution by the Littoral States of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.
- Comparative Analysis of Strategic Sea Lanes: Strait of Malacca against the Singapore, Lombok-Makassar, and Sunda Straits.
- Security of Malaysia's Sea Lanes of Communications: The Roles and Interests of External Powers in the Strait of Malacca.
- Cooperation in the Straits of Malacca: A Critical Review
- Regional Database System for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Projects Highlight - 2012

- Ecosystems conservation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: future perspectives.
- Future of the Straits of Malacca Cooperative Mechanism.
- Maritime Boundary Delimitation in the Straits of Malacca: Options for Malaysia.
- Maritime Incidents in the Strait of Malacca: Prospects and Implications for Implementing E-Navigation Services.
- A Socio-economic Evaluation of the Maritime Sector of the Strait of Malacca.

Conclusions

- MIMA has contributed in some way towards improving the management of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.
- Largely in the development of policies and practices towards cooperation but also in analysing environmental issues and management as well as navigation in the Straits.
- Hopes to continue to research and provide input towards sustainable use and development of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Thank You

