The Partners:

International Maritime Organization
World Bank
Global Environment Facility
Littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore
Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea
International Hydrographic Organization
International Chamber of Shipping
INTERTANKO

Contributing to Sustainable Maritime Development

THE WORLD BANK
Working for a World Free of Poverty
The Rationale
The Straits of Malacca and Singapore are one of the busiest shipping arteries in the world presenting unique challenges in terms of safe, efficient, secure and environmentally sound vessel movements. Thanks to the excellent co-operation of the three littoral States, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with support of the shipping industry, much has been achieved towards the enhancement of navigational safety, efficient vessel traffic management, and the prevention and control of pollution from ships. Measures include the establishment of a mandatory traffic separation scheme; delivering data on precautionary areas; minimum underkeel clearance for tankers; mandatory ship reporting; and standard operating procedures for oil spill emergency response.

Improvements to marine aids to navigation and to shore-based facilities for maritime traffic monitoring have reduced the frequency of ship collisions and groundings and of oil pollution incidents. However, the risk of maritime accidents with adverse environmental impacts remains high due to the increase in the volume of shipping traffic as trade flows in the region expand, as well as the increased passage through the Straits of very large container ships and of gas carriers. A growing mix of economic and recreational activities also affects the carrying capacity of the Straits.

The Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) System is envisaged as a regional network of marine information technologies with a dedicated Internet portal for congested and confined waters. It provides for the mature and innovative application of advances in digital information technology to telecommunications, marine navigation, and marine environmental research and management. Thus, the MEH System is designed to function as a mainstream decision support system for the different users and stakeholders of the Straits to the benefit of enhanced navigational and traffic safety and marine environmental protection.

The Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) Demonstration Project
This Project concerns the first phase of a proposed two-phase programme to establish a regional MEH System in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Its principal objective is to determine whether a full-scale MEH System for the Straits is economically justified and financially feasible. Based on the outcome of the first phase, the second phase is intended to cover the whole of the Straits.

If the MEH System could be shown to be successful in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, it has the potential to be extended to the shipping route linking Europe and the Middle East with East Asia.

The MEH Demonstration Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility/World Bank and executed by the International Maritime Organization.

www.mehsoms.com
Innovative approach to maritime traffic management and marine environmental protection through the application of information systems

Enhancing navigational safety and marine environmental and resource management – a contribution to Sustainable Maritime Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>SECTORAL BENEFITS</th>
<th>GENERAL BENEFITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhance navigational safety</td>
<td>Reduce risks of grounding and collision; Increase operational efficiencies of vessels</td>
<td>Enhance commercial performance; Shipboard modernization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve vessel traffic movements</td>
<td>Efficient vessel traffic management; Increase in payload</td>
<td>Improve maritime security; Reduce environment-related damages</td>
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<td>Increase efficiency of telecommunications and information flows</td>
<td>Enhance precision navigation; Real time data access; Enhance emergency response; Improve crew morale; Reduce cost</td>
<td>Efficient working environment; Downward pressure on running costs</td>
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<td>Strengthen dissemination and use of environmental information</td>
<td>Effective monitoring and forecasting; Revenue source; Improve enforcement</td>
<td>Enhance commercial yield; Reduce damage claims; Improve compliance</td>
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[Image of maps showing marine protected areas, mangroves, and coral reefs]
The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations committed to promoting safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping.