

APCSS OUTREACH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT**“Maritime Security in the Pacific Island Region: Securing the Maritime Commons for the 21st Century”
Honolulu, 13-16 September 2010**

1. Purpose. The workshop on “Maritime Security in the Pacific Island Region: Securing the Maritime Commons for the 21st Century”, was held to foster enhanced understanding and collaboration to address shared maritime security challenges in the Pacific Islands region. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for candid and robust discussions among senior maritime security officials from the Pacific Islands region of current and emerging maritime security concerns, and the potential next steps that may be taken by national governments, regional organizations, and external partners to address these in a collaborative fashion.

2. Discussion. The symposium was hosted by APCSS with funding support through USPACOM’s Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative Program. The workshop was opened by speeches from Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (in absentia), Ambassador C. Steven McGann (U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu), and Ambassador David Huebner (U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa).
 - Attendance profile. 63 participants comprising representatives from 23 nations and organizations (American Samoa, Australia, China, Fiji, Guam, Japan, Kiribati, Maldives, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature), subject-matter experts (Victoria University of Wellington – New Zealand, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University – Japan, East-West Center – U.S.A., Shanghai Institute for International Strategic Studies – China, State of Hawai’i Senate – U.S.A) and the U.S. (APCSS, USEMB Suva, USEMB Wellington, USCG 14th District, JIATF-W, OSD-APSA, USPACOM, COMPACFLT, Joint Staff, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Office of Law Enforcement). Composition approximately 28% police/customs/coast guard/Homeland Security, 22% military, 19% other government (e.g. Senate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Safety), 6% regional organizations, 23% others (e.g. academics, etc.).
 - Objectives. 1) Develop a shared awareness of the scope and nature of the maritime commons in the Pacific Island region; 2) identify key challenges to the security of these commons; 3) discuss the opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration to address these challenges; 4) recommend some next steps to initiate momentum towards such collaboration.
 - Framework. 1) Focused presentations in plenary sessions by SMEs providing overviews of key maritime security concerns and collaborative opportunities; 2) two break-out working sessions to share perspectives and identify potential opportunities and next steps to address shared challenges; 3) participant presentation of key highlights of discussions and recommended opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration and next steps to address maritime security challenges at national and regional/international level (briefing received by Senator J. Kalani English, State Senator 6th District, Hawaii; Consul-General Yoshihiko Kamo, Consulate General of Japan; Rear Admiral Stephen E. Mehling, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District; and Rear Admiral Christopher J. Tomney, Director, JIATF-W).

3. Key Observations.
 - Participants agreed on a broad statement summarizing the maritime commons in the region as “those areas of the Pacific Ocean under national and international jurisdiction, supporting the

sustainability of communities and their natural heritage". It was acknowledged the maritime commons are a complex interplay of state interests, legal frameworks and jurisdictions, and one, moreover that needed to be interpreted in a cultural, traditional and historical context. It was also recognized the maritime commons represented an area of common (but variegated) vital interest for Pacific island nations. The maritime commons is a shared environment possessing rich resources critical to the sustainability of human development in the region, and had to be understood in a broad totality encompassing not just the sea, but also the air, land, species and seabed resources. The maritime commons offers usage and benefits but carries also responsibilities, especially in conservation and management.

- The key challenges seen to the security of these commons ranged from the existential (e.g. climate change) to maritime terrorism, transnational crime, resource exploitation (e.g. illegal and over-fishing), and environmental degradation. The following were seen as impediments to an effective response to such challenges: poor governance, corruption, poor information sharing, weak capacities/capabilities (especially human and fiscal resources), weak law enforcement, lack of technology, the tyranny of distance, poor coordination, governments/agencies being overburdened with other challenges and/or priorities, a lack of focus by donors and governments in developing civil society, pressure from donors, a lack of clarity on what constitutes the maritime "commons" and associated roles and responsibilities of state, non-state and regional actors, the self-interest of states and officials, and competing mindsets in viewing and valuing the commons (present vs. the future). Of these, participants ranked weak enforcement capabilities as a top challenge, followed by resource exploitation, the lack of cooperation between states, transnational crime, climate change, and finally, corruption.
- In discussing the opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration to address these challenges, participants suggested there was a need to define a common understanding of broader ocean issues and related security challenges for the region. Existing cooperative mechanisms (in law enforcement) needed to be developed further and strengthened in order to realize potential incremental gains. Coordination needed to be improved in a number of important areas, including with donors, between governments, agencies and organizations regionally, in an inter-agency and intra-agency manner, and in the field of information sharing. Capacity building was also identified as in need for improvement, where sustained and long-term strategies were important, while opportunities in leveraging diaspora communities needed to be harnessed, and governance improved. Participants also suggested regional capacity sharing should be explored (e.g. skilled personnel, specialist expertise, equipment, technology, etc.). In view of the web of bilateral and multilateral agreements across the region, participants indicated a need to optimize the balance between these arrangements to achieve an improved maritime security environment. Finally, it was also suggested that discussions needed to continue to assess the value of pursuing potential future mechanisms to enhance maritime security, including improvements to the regional security architecture, the role of private sector actors, and non-state/civil society/community engagement.
- Participants suggested a range of next steps to enhance maritime security in the region. These included: a capability needs assessment, action to leverage key regional and international meetings to present workshop findings and raise awareness of Pacific Ocean security issues (e.g. Pacific Islands Council of Leaders, the Quad arrangement, APEC, the Forum Regional Security Meeting), integrating and coordinating enforcement functions between the Forum Regional Security Committee and Forum Fisheries Agency, further discussions on how governments may improve governance platforms to take advantage of new funding opportunities (e.g. Climate Change Adaptation funds), measures to build local capacity and empower the public through deeper community engagement (e.g. women's groups). Of these, participants ranked the

improvement of coordinated enforcement functions as the highest priority, followed by the conduct of a capability needs assessment, improvements in governance, deeper community engagement, and leveraging key meetings.

- Overall, participants agreed the workshop had significantly broadened their horizons on key maritime security issues and concerns in the region, creating a deeper appreciation of the range and magnitude of the challenges faced, but also, the potential opportunities for more effective regional collaboration to address these.

4. Conclusion.

- The workshop was a rare event, bringing together senior participants from Pacific Island nations for an intense period of frank discussion on contemporary and emerging maritime security challenges, and potential paths forward in addressing these. The exchange of perspectives was immensely valuable for participants and in fostering understanding. While there exist several standing groupings that meet to discuss various related aspects, this maritime security workshop was unique in terms of the dedicated focus to this issue, and assembly of key, senior-level officials with responsibilities in this arena.
- The symposium proved to be an exceptionally productive event enhancing national capacities, and built confidence, relationships, and networks to expand and sustain collaborative approaches to addressing maritime security in the region. Held in Hawaii, the symposium also concretely demonstrated the commitment of the United States to work with the region to address shared challenges. Representatives from national governments and regional organizations welcomed this commitment, and in view of the next steps identified by participants, considerable scope exists for building on this initial effort.