



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
 Organisation météorologique mondiale
 Organización Meteorológica Mundial
 Всемирная метеорологическая организация
 المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
 世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
 CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
 Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
 Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
 wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

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20 June 2019

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: International Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather - Towards Safety of Life at Sea and Sustainable Blue Economies, 23 - 25 October 2019, London, UK

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to extend to you an invitation to participate in the *International Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather*, jointly organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Symposium will take place at IMO Headquarters in London, UK, from 23 to 25 October 2019.

Through a programme of presentations and discussion sessions featuring representatives of Members/Member States of both WMO and IMO, international organizations, including shipping and insurance communities, the Symposium will aim to find possible solutions to the risks created by extreme maritime weather events – those which are dangerous to vessels at sea and are a threat to life, property and the marine environment, as well as the economic impacts to the global blue economy.

Provisional themes of the Symposium will include:

- (a) Extreme maritime weather;
- (b) Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) Convention requirements;
- (c) End-user requirements;
- (d) Ship observations for met-ocean information;
- (e) Utilization of available and emerging technology for improved navigation, and;
- (f) Earth-ocean prediction capability and forecasts at sea.

Members are invited to disseminate the information regarding this Symposium to their shipping and meteorological communities, as well as other relevant stakeholders and to encourage their participation.

Participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible, in order to facilitate visa applications, especially the attendees who may require United Kingdom entry visas. Please find enclosed Information on Registration at IMO meetings and the procedures governing the support by IMO of visa applications (see Annex).

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO
 President of WMO
 JCOMM Co-Presidents


cc: National Marine Service Focal Points

Further details, including the provisional programme, will be made available in due course at:

https://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=2455

For more information regarding this Symposium, please contact the Marine Meteorology and Ocean Affairs Division, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department (email: mmo@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)

for the Secretary-General

Annex

REGISTRATION FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

Members/Member States, UN agencies, IGOs and NGOs are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names of all the members of their delegations attending the meeting via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in IMO Circular Letter No.3463 of 14 July 2014, available [here](#). This facilitates both their entry into the building and the production of the list of participants by the Secretariat.

Once they have completed the registration procedure, delegates will be issued at IMO with an electronic access card to pass through the security barrier in the IMO building. Issue of the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving license. Delegates may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the Headquarters building, if requested by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, delegates who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation.

Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section,
IMO
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

Members of delegations will not be registered to attend the meeting without authorization from their OMRS Delegation Coordinator. New delegates whose names appear in the OMRS will be issued with the above-mentioned access card. Delegates whose names are not on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the meeting.

Delegates are advised that the Registration Desk will be open from 8.00 a.m. on **Wednesday, 23 October 2019**, when early arrival would be appreciated.

General information on administrative and housekeeping issues relating to meetings at IMO may be found at the [JCOMM site](#) mentioned above -an information leaflet for delegates, which can be downloaded from [IMODOCS](#) (<https://webaccounts.imo.org/>) and is also available at the Documents and Meeting Services counters on the ground floor and second floor, respectively. Delegates are kindly requested to familiarize themselves with the contents of the information leaflet.-

PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE SUPPORT BY IMO OF VISA APPLICATIONS

The procedures are available at the JCOMM site.

Any requests for visa assistance should be communicated to:

External Relations Office (International Maritime Organization)

Email: <mailto:visa@imo.org>

As established in article 7.2 of part III on Access and communications of the Headquarters agreement, delegates are entitled to have their entry into the United Kingdom authorized without delay and without charge.

Delegates invited by the Organization who require United Kingdom entry visas should, in the first instance, apply online for an "EXEMPT" visa, note the reference numbers and follow the online instructions to attend either the nominated Visa Application Centre or the United Kingdom Embassy or High Commission. United Kingdom visa applications should be accompanied by the following documentation:

- i. the relevant IMO official invitation,
- ii. the nomination letter and
- iii. a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Delegates must be nominated by their competent Ministry (usually the Ministry of Transport or the National Maritime Administration). The nomination letter should be taken to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for preparation of a note verbale addressed to the British Embassy/High Commission.

If, after following the above-mentioned procedure, delegates still encounter visa problems, either the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the National Maritime Administration or the competent Ministry should request visa assistance in writing to the Head of the IMO External Relations Office, on paper bearing the official letterhead. The letter should state the reasons given by the British Embassy/High Commission as to why visas have been or may be refused and contain the following details:

- i. First name:
Family name:
Profession:
Date of birth:
Place of birth:
Type of passport:
Passport No:
Place of issue:
Date of issue:
Valid until:
Visa reference number:
Date and place of visa application:
- ii. Purpose of visit:
- iii. Duration of anticipated stay in the United Kingdom:

This exercise must be undertaken at least six weeks before the date on which the session begins, to enable the Organization to support the visa application accordingly and the visa to be issued in good time.

Any requests for visa assistance should be communicated to:

External Relations Office (International Maritime Organization): <mailto:visa@imo.org>