

Perth to welcome global marine oil spill response leaders

The city of Perth will next week welcome the world's leaders and experts in oil spill response practices and technologies.

Spillcon 2019 will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to provide an avenue to discuss issues including prevention, preparedness, response management, recovery and environmental safeguards.

"The Spillcon conference is part of the triennial conference series between Interspill in the UK and Europe and the International Oil Spill Conference in the USA", said Conference Chairman, Mr Paul Barrett (CEO of the Australian Institute of Petroleum - AIP).

The theme of Spillcon is collaboration and cooperation in a global, regional and local context.

"Collaboration between industry and government is the essential ingredient in effective marine-based oil spill preparedness and response".

"This cooperation occurs in a variety of ways, whether it is through formal arrangements such as Australia's National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies or through shared resource organisations like the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC) which provides the joint industry contribution to Australia's National Plan".

"Spillcon will discuss crisis leadership, planning and management. It will examine case studies and the lessons learned. It will consider spill science, advances in new technologies, salvage intervention and monitoring, and future issues around maritime environmental emergencies. Public communication will also be a critical theme".

A raft of high calibre national and international speakers will address the conference on their areas of expertise.

A major highlight of the conference is the real time virtual oil spill simulation that will directly engage participation from conference delegates.

For the first time, there will be a dedicated school's program for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) students to inspire tomorrow's generation towards careers in protecting the marine environment.

Spillcon 2019 will also see the return of the popular 'on water' display. This includes the demonstration of the application of dispersant (spraying water only) by fixed wing aerial dispersant aircraft.

"The conference provides the opportunity for government officials and industry personnel to collaborate, as we do in spill responses, and to learn from experiences, academia and global insights. This will facilitate better ways of tackling issues around prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from marine oil spills", said Mr Barrett.

The Conference is brought together by the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and its subsidiary the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC) and is supported by partner organisations the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), and the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

Spillcon will be held at Crown Perth from 20-24 May.

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