

PAME I-2020: Agenda Item 6.7

Strengthening Observer Engagement in PAME's Shipping Related Activities Submitted by USA, Poland, Republic of Korea, Northern Forum

Background

PAME II-2019 adopted a ROD stating:

PAME notes with appreciation the workshop summary report for the 'Systematic Engagement with Observers Project' (PAME (II)/19/6.8) and the progress made on the project. With an eye towards developing a draft framework for more systematically engaging with Observers, PAME invites the project co-leads (USA, Poland, Republic of Korea, Italy, Northern Forum)¹ to:

- ✓ *divide and rank by feasibility the catalog of ideas, suggestions, and recommendations into those that may feasibly be pursued by PAME member governments, and those that may feasibly be pursued by Observers;*
- ✓ *identify the cataloged items by feasibility and develop a summary with an explanatory notation on how each selected item could be pursued;*
- ✓ *explore the development of a "PAME 101 for Observers"; and*
- ✓ *submit a status report to PAME I-2020.*

This is the requested status report.

Discussion

The spreadsheet below captures the promising options identified at the *Workshop on Observer Engagement in PAME's Shipping-Related Activities* (London, 4 June 2019) for strengthening Observer engagement in PAME's shipping-related activities.

The spreadsheet lists 22 options and describes:

- how realistic each is (low, medium, or high);
- how useful each is (low, medium, or high);
- whether States or Observers, or both, would have the lead responsibility for pursuing it;
- why the option merits consideration; and
- how it could be implemented.

At the end of the spreadsheet, the co-leads have identified 12 basic questions that they believe a "PAME 101 for Observers" document should answer.

The project co-leads invite feedback on the draft spreadsheet and 12 basic questions by 20 March 2020. The co-leads will address comments received and revise the draft spreadsheet accordingly for submission to PAME II-2020 as part of a project status report. The co-leads will also develop a draft "PAME 101 for Observers" document and submit it for consideration at PAME II-2020. After 20

¹ After PAME II-2019, Italy dropped out as a project co-lead due to resource constraints.

March 2020, and as time and resources allow, the co-leads will also launch initial work on one or more of the spreadsheet options that are identified as “high feasibility” and “high utility.”

Recommendation to PAME I-2020

The project co-leads recommend that PAME I-2020 adopt a ROD for this project as follows:

PAME invites its members to review the draft spreadsheet of options for strengthening Observer engagement in PAME’s shipping-related work and submit any comments to the project co-leads by 20 March 2020. PAME also invites the project co-leads (USA, Poland, Republic of Korea, Northern Forum) to:

- revise the draft spreadsheet of options to address comments received and submit a revised draft version as part of a project status report to PAME II-2020;
- prepare a draft “PAME 101 for Observers” document for consideration at PAME II-2020; and
- after 20 March 2020, launch initial work on one or more of the spreadsheet options that are identified as “high feasibility” and high utility.”

Option	Feasibility Ranking (how realistic)	Utility Ranking (how useful)	States or Observers	Explanation	Implementation
(1) Develop a “how-to” guide for Observer engagement in PAME, its Shipping Expert Group, and its shipping-related activities	High	High	States	Observer delegates may be unfamiliar with PAME, its structure, and how it operates. A guide could define the role of Observers, how they can participate constructively, where information may be obtained, and similar details.	Draft a “how-to” guide and, through several iterations, refine it with input from all PAME members.
(2) Develop a standard template for Observer comments on PAME shipping projects	High	Low-Medium	States	A standard template for Observer comments could facilitate and promote such input, leading to greater Observers engagement	Draft a standard comment template.
(3) Invite Observers regularly to propose potential Arctic shipping-related projects for inclusion in PAME’s Biennial Work Plan	High	Medium	States	Nothing precludes Observers from doing this now, but a more formalized way for doing so (e.g., an annual or biennial survey) would make this clearer.	Draft a short survey and circulate it to all Observers regularly, noting that all projects require a State or PP co-lead.
(4) Invite Observer input on shipping-related projects	High	Low-Medium	States	Nothing precludes Observers from doing this now, but a more	Add a note to PAME SEG pre-meeting agendas and monthly

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included in PAME's Biennial Work Plans				formalized way for doing so (e.g., a standing request or agenda item for SEG pre-meetings or monthly calls) would make this clearer.	SEG call agenda inviting Observer input.
(5) Set aside time and a room at every PAME meeting for Observers to discuss issues of shared interest, on Arctic shipping issues.	High	Low-Medium	Meeting Host Country and PAME Secretariat	For each PAME meeting, time and room could be set aside for a meeting at which Observers can discuss among themselves Arctic shipping issues and then reporting to Plenary.	Set aside a room and identify a time for an Observer breakout meeting.
(6) Coordinate with other Shipping-Related Meetings to facilitate attendance at PAME meetings of shipping experts	Medium	Medium	States	When setting meeting dates, States do their best to take into account meeting schedules of other intergovernmental bodies, such as IMO Committee and Subcommittee meetings.	No additional action.
(7) Meet by videoconference to ease travel burdens that prevent Observer attendance.	Low	Low	States	While videoconferences theoretically could substitute for in-person PAME meetings, they are unlikely to be workable.	Once a project has been approved, intersessional work can proceed however the co-leads desire. Conference calls and videoconferences are acceptable and permissible ways to advance project work.
(8) Improve awareness of PAME meetings and any PAME workshops related to its shipping	High	Low-Medium	States and PAME Secretariat	Greater Observer awareness of PAME meetings and PAME workshops related to its shipping activities may attract greater Observer participation and engagement.	Strengthen PAME's social media presence.
(9) Develop a survey to identify Observers' Arctic shipping-related interests, their view of the AMSA Recommendations, etc., regularly.	High	Medium	Observers	A survey with appropriate questions could be developed to elicit from Observers their particular Arctic shipping interests.	Draft a survey.
(10) Develop clear short-, medium-, and long-term goals as points of reference for PAME and Observers.	High	Medium	Observers	A survey with priorities could be developed to elicit from Observers ranking of their priorities related to Arctic shipping.	Draft a ranking survey.
(11) Consider an	Medium	High	Observers	A form of learning	Draft a concept paper

<p>exercise where the more experienced Observers perform tutorial roles for those Observers who are less experienced to share lessons learned and avoid repeating mistakes.</p> <p>Every two years, select an Observer to work with a Chair to assist with disseminating relevant information to other Observers.</p>				<p>arrangement led by more experienced Observers could be considered, either as a one-time event or a more organized platform</p> <p><i>Additional proposal: Consider the creation of a platform for observers to share their experiences, lessons learned and solutions among themselves</i></p> <p><i>Comment: Consider developing a system of an observer coordinator (e.g., beginning with the most experienced ones) for an expert group or the entire PAME that would coordinate observer engagement; this could be aligned with the Warsaw Format Meetings, and additional coordination among observers could be achieved in different issue areas, depending on the current needs. Consider having national PAME workshops to raise awareness of PAME activities among domestic stakeholders (ship owners/operators, classification societies, shipbuilding industry, etc.).</i></p>	<p>for such an arrangement. Probably requires further discussions and survey.</p>
<p>(12) Announce ahead of time important areas of concern to allow Observers to find and send experts to meetings on those subjects.</p> <p>Send out pre-meeting emails to raise awareness of projects and what expertise is needed at the upcoming meeting.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>PAME</p>	<p>The domestic process of identifying relevant experts may take a long time. Ensuring sufficient time for national contact points to determine experts may increase participation.</p> <p><i>Comment: Project coordinators/chairs may indicate the expertise needs or reach out to identified/known Observer experts before the meetings.</i></p>	<p>Draft a standard information template for the PAME Secretariat to distribute among Observer contact points.</p>
<p>(13) Invite Observers to participate in the monthly shipping expert group calls,</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>SEG Co-Chairs</p>	<p>Observer participation in the monthly calls is rather low. To increase it, some additional measures may be</p>	

<p>or have a corresponding group developed specifically for Observers.</p>				<p>considered. Participation in the calls raises awareness and gives a better understanding of PAME projects, activities, and processes.</p> <p><i>Comment: Although this is an already existing arrangement, more systematic participation could be encouraged (e.g., to highlight the importance/advantages of these teleconferences during the meetings and in the possible observer pamphlet)</i></p>	
<p>(14) Create databases to organize information (possibly password-protected). The information in these databases must be well documented and updated as frequently as possible. Database content might be structured in accordance with suggestions from an Observer workshop.</p>	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>PAME</p>	<p>Possible databases content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Information: Provides easy access to everyone’s updated contact information. This will also list primary and secondary points of contact 2. Experts and their specialties: This will help PAME determine to whom personal invitations should be sent. 3. Projects: A list of the most current projects will include contact information of the project’s lead and detailed descriptions of the project (what resources needed, priority, who is currently working on it, progress on the project, and any additional needs) for Observer participation. This list should be circulated periodically (i.e., every six months or before every meeting). *Reference the software Base Camp. 4. Observers: This database would include what each Observer has to offer PAME, such as resources, special expertise, etc. It would also have the suggested annual template for Observers to update their 	<p>Given additional funding, the PAME Secretariat might be able to assume this duty. Explore the possibility of Observer financial contributions to the PAME Secretariat to support this.</p>

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				<p>interests.</p> <p>5. PAME Expert Groups: Include information about recent discussions, project lists, interest survey results, reports, etc.</p> <p>6. Meeting Notes: Archive all information both in advance of and after all PAME meetings.</p>	
(15) Share information about PAME projects with universities and academic networks.	High	Medium-Low	States, Observers	<p><i>Comment: Given the nature of PAME projects (policy rather than science-oriented) information sharing shall be targeted at identified and renowned academic and research institutions.</i></p>	<p>PAME already posts its final reports and work product to the PAME Website. Key reports are also posted to the Arctic Council website. The ACS has media staff and the Arctic Council has a communications strategy. Work with the ACS to further disseminate PAME reports and final work product; identify additional outreach channels, perhaps by entering into an MOU with the University of the Arctic to disseminate PAME reports and final work product.</p>
(16) Passive Communications: PAME Website, Social Media, Newsletters	Medium	Medium-High	PAME		
(17) Strengthen coordination with IMO since there is a lot of valuable expertise in this organization. PAME member governments should clarify the relationship between PAME and IMO to see where to bring in IMO expertise.	Medium-High	High	States Observers IMO	<p>Many relevant national shipping experts that represent Observers at IMO are not aware of PAME activities and have no possibility or are not receptive to this information in the domestic context. Organizing an information meeting/workshop at IMO could help alleviate it, gather relevant experts in one place, reduce possible travels and time to reach the most relevant people. This would require collaboration between PAME and IMO. One</p>	<p>Discuss the idea with IMO and, if positively received, design the arrangement. Note that funding would likely be required for a workshop of this nature. Explore the possibility of Observer financial contributions to help cover the costs of a workshop.</p>

				<p>occasion for this may be the forthcoming ASBPIF meeting in May 2020 that is likely to be held at IMO premises. Such meetings could be organized at different sessions (MSC and MEPC) to ensure reaching out to diverse audiences.</p> <p><i>Comment: Consider organizing a meeting/workshop for representatives of Observer States and Organizations’ at IMO back-to-back one of the IMO sessions (and in collaboration with IMO, ideally at the IMO headquarters) to inform and raise awareness about PAME activities and to create links between Observers’ IMO experts and PAME.</i></p>	
<p>(18) Instill an obligation or “ownership” for shipping projects. Suggestions to achieve this include: 1. Observer States should be organizing Observer engagement working groups in their jurisdiction. 2. Create in-state watch groups on particular interests. 3. Require white papers to specify how to co-operate with Arctic shipping. 4. Require communication information in-country or a web page to ensure all participants are well informed.</p>	Medium-Low	High	Observers	<p>Domestic arrangements and organization vary among Observer states. It may be challenging to achieve a uniform system everywhere, but certain arrangements may be shared as good practices. Probably the most advanced domestic model related to Arctic Council working groups (including PAME and shipping activities) may be found in the Republic of Korea. Perhaps this could be used as a point of departure for developing a good practice guide for Observers.</p>	<p>Draft a concept paper on possible domestic arrangements facilitating engagement with the Arctic Council working groups. This could be arranged by Observers, for instance, as an exercise during Warsaw Format Meetings.</p>
<p>(19) Involve PAME and the Arctic Council in national sectoral policies.</p>	Medium-Low	High	Observers	As above.	As above.
<p>(20) Improve interagency coordination between different</p>	Medium-Low	High	Observers	<p>As above.</p> <p>There is not enough knowledge at the</p>	As above.

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<p>agencies concerned with Arctic concerns.</p> <p>Increase the level of awareness, support with political goals, and secure resources (interagency).</p>				<p>national level on why the Observers should participate, whom they can send information or requests to, or what they can gain from participating.</p>	
<p>(21) Share information “at home” so that others interested can offer their expertise and raise awareness on projects.</p>	<p>Medium-High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Observers</p>	<p>Existing channels of communications may be used to share information about PAME projects nationally. Also, special national mailing groups may be developed.</p>	<p>Encourage Observers to create/utilize national mailing lists or other communication channels (e.g., regular national meetings on Arctic or shipping affairs) to spread information about PAME activities.</p>
<p>(22) Increase transparency in the decision-making process to show Observers that their recommendations are being incorporated into decisions.</p> <p>(PAME cannot decide on a framework without duly considering Observers’ recommendations.)</p>	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>Medium-High</p>	<p>States</p>	<p>Observers may be discouraged from greater involvement (requiring financial and time resources), without clearer evidence that their input matter or may influence decision-making. Providing more transparency may provide an incentive for increased participation.</p> <p><i>Comment: With more systematic participation and experience, Observers may notice influence over decision-making on the working group level, but perhaps some more visible and directly tangible measures could be considered. Although Arctic States have been cautious in empowering Observers within the Arctic Council, Observers may de facto influence decisions taken at the working group level. As RODs do not indicate who proposed what, Observer suggestions are often treated equally with those of the Arctic States and PPs. Observers with little experience at PAME may not be fully</i></p>	

				<p><i>aware of this. A possible starting point may be to acknowledge it officially.</i></p>	
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Possible Questions for “PAME 101” FAQs/Pamphlet

1. What is PAME?
2. Who are its Members?
3. How often does PAME meet?
4. Where does PAME meet?
5. How many Observers does PAME have?
6. What role may Observers play at PAME meetings?
7. May Observers speak at PAME meetings?
8. May Observers submit documents for consideration at PAME meetings?
9. May Observers participate in or even lead PAME projects?
10. May Observers participate in monthly PAME calls?
11. May Observers influence decisions made at PAME. If so, how?
12. How else may Observers contribute to PAME’s work?