

WESTERN PACIFIC NAVAL SYMPOSIUM (WPNS)

BUSINESS CHARTER

(As Amended at the 12th WPNS, September 2010)

I. BACKGROUND

The origins of the WPNS lie in the 1987 International Seapower Symposium where the benefits of free discussion between Chiefs of Navies led to an agreement in the Western Pacific Regional Committee to hold a similar regional meeting. The agreement resulted in the formation of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), which held its first meeting in 1988. By 1998 the original 13 Members had increased to 17 Members and two Observers, and by 2008 to 18 Members and six Observers.

In 2010 the Members re-affirmed the focus and area of interest of the group is the Western Pacific region. Nevertheless the Members agreed to broaden the opportunities for participation in WPNS in recognition of the global nature of maritime security. Consequently, the Chiefs of the WPNS Member Navies agreed at the

WPNS meeting in Australia in September 2010 to amend the member and observer status. The Chiefs of Navy also agreed to clarify the WPNS Workshop and Symposium meeting procedures.

II. PURPOSE

The WPNS aims to increase cooperation and the ability to operate together, as well as to build trust and confidence between Navies by providing a framework to enable the discussion of maritime issues of mutual interest, the exchange of information, the practice and demonstration of capabilities, and the exchange of personnel.

III. OBJECTIVES

There are five primary objectives of the WPNS:

1. To discuss and develop cooperative initiatives, and identify those that merit further development and practice.
2. To explore and develop new ways of enhancing friendship and professional cooperation.
3. To develop Navy-to-Navy relationships at a variety of levels to build confidence and trust for today and the future.

4. To exchange information on a broad range of maritime matters of mutual interest.

5. To ensure lines of communication are established and maintained in order to facilitate continued liaison among delegates outside of Workshops and Symposia.

IV. MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATUS

Applications or nominations for either member or observer status, including requests to move from observer to member status, are to be referred to the WPNS Workshop for consideration. Applications or nominations are to be advised to the Secretariat at least 12 weeks prior to the workshop. The Secretariat will advise them to all WPNS members at least 8 weeks prior to the Workshop. If the Workshop agrees, the application or nomination is to be referred to the next Symposium for approval by principals.

A. Member

Criteria for member status:

1. The applicant is:
 - (a) a Navy of a state with territory in the Western Pacific (defined as the Western Pacific Ocean (west of 180°), the adjoining seas and straits, including west to the Malacca and Singapore Straits and the seas of

the Indonesia Archipelago, in accordance with the IHO Special Publication #23, Limits of Oceans and Seas); or

(b) a Navy of a state with significant strategic interests in the Western Pacific (as defined in subparagraph (a) above), and which borders the Pacific Ocean, and which has demonstrated active participation as an Observer in WPNS for at least five (5) years, defined as:

- (1) participation as an Observer in all annual Workshops and all biennial Symposium in the last five years preceding the application; and
- (2) situated on the borders of the Pacific Ocean (defined as the Pacific Ocean (North and South), the adjoining seas and straits, including west to the Malacca and Singapore Straits and the seas of the Indonesia Archipelago, in accordance with the IHO Special Publication #23, Limits of Oceans and Seas).

2. The applicant has the capacity to engage with WPNS Navies and contribute constructively to the WPNS; and

3. The applicant's membership is supported by WPNS members.

B. Observer

Criteria for observer status:

1. The applicant is a Navy of a state that has significant strategic interests in the Western Pacific region; and
2. The applicant has the capacity to engage WPNS Navies and contribute constructively to the WPNS; and
3. The applicant's observer status is supported by WPNS members.

C. Resignation

Member or Observer Navies that wish to resign from the WPNS should advise the Secretariat of their intention in writing.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

A. Members of the WPNS shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Nomination of a permanent point of contact and notification of any changes to the Secretariat; and
2. Attendance at Workshops and Symposia, Seminars, Exercises or other Activities with the appropriate personnel; and

E. When the WPNS publishes a document for use by the WPNS Navies the Secretariat is to ensure that a sponsor nation is nominated to ensure that the publication is updated, as necessary, and reflects current procedures. This responsibility extends to an electronic copy hosted on a website.

VII. SEMINARS, EXERCISES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. The conduct of WPNS sponsored seminars, exercises and other activities are to be agreed in principle by Symposia members or, if warranted, out of session by consensus agreement. Established WPNS endorsed activities are to be reviewed at each Workshop and Symposium. When endorsing such activities or their continuation, Members should consider rotating hosting arrangements such that they are shared equitably.

B. On completion of a WPNS seminar, exercise or other activity, the agreed host Navy is to make recommendations to the WPNS on the activity's future continuation or proposed next phase.

C. Observer nations may be invited to participate in a seminar, exercise or other activity.

D. Observer nations may from time to time wish to host a specific seminar, exercise or other activity if that is consistent with the WPNS purpose and objectives in Section II and III above.

2. In these symposia, presentation of the final papers or agreements made in the preceding workshops shall be considered.

3. If the WPNS Navies at the preceding workshops so decide, the WPNS Navies may invite a governmental agency belonging to a WPNS country or an inter-governmental agency that at least one of the WPNS countries subscribes to present a topic(s) of interest at the subsequent Symposium in accordance with Addendum One of the Business Charter.

4. WPNS Navies may also invite a representative from an extra regional naval symposium to present topic(s) of interest at a WPNS Symposium in accordance with Addendum One of the Business Charter.

5. On a case by case basis, a WPNS Navy hosting a WPNS Symposium may also propose to invite a non-governmental organization subject to the conditions in Addendum One of the Business Charter.

6. A Symposium shall be designated by a sequential numeric title (e.g. 12th WPNS Symposium), commencing with the 1st Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) held in 1988.

C. WPNS Deliberations

1. Decisions should generally be reached by consensus of the members. However, WPNS decisions are non-binding and adoption of initiatives is voluntary.

C. In all cases, the products of such Working Groups will be brought forward to subsequent Workshops for endorsement and, if necessary, to subsequent Symposium for approval.

XI. WPNS WEB SITE

A. Location

The WPNS Web Site will be hosted on the All Partners Access Network (APAN), operated by the U.S. Pacific Command. This is a voluntary arrangement at no cost to WPNS or its members. The site is located at the following URL:

<http://community.apan.org>

B. Purpose and Content

The Web Site will be the collecting point and resource for information on the WPNS and documents produced or adopted by the WPNS. This will include: the history of the WPNS; a summary of the past participation in Workshops, Symposia and other activities; summaries of deliberations at Workshops, Symposia and other activities; administrative information on upcoming Workshops, Symposia, Seminars, Exercises and other activities; the Code for Unalerted Encounter at Sea (CUES); the Maritime Information Exchange Directory (MIED); the Business Charter; WPNS Point-of-Contact list (to be updated annually as per Article V Responsibilities of Members and Observers); reports of Seminars, Exercises and other activities; and other documents as discussed periodically at Workshops.

Membership status as at October 2010 in accordance with this new Business Charter:

Members: Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Kingdom of Tonga, Malaysia, Negara Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Singapore, Russian Federation, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, and the United States of America.

Observers: Bangladesh, India, Mexico, and Peru.

1 The CONNEKS conceptual framework was presented by the RSN at the WPNS Workshop 2003 held in Pattaya, Thailand. Subsequently, with the endorsement of the rest of the WPNS members, the USCG and IMO were invited by the RSN to present at the WPNS Workshop 2004, held in Singapore, to demonstrate the CONNEKS concept.

Non-Government Organisations

Non-government organizations (NGO) may be invited on a case-by-case basis subject to the conditions stipulated in this Addendum.

Proposing Navy

The WPNS Navy that proposes to invite an Agency or NGO shall be known as the "Proposing Navy."

Hosting Navy

The WPNS Navy that is hosting the Workshop/Symposium/Seminar/Exercise to which the invited Agency or NGO is planned to present/participate, shall be known as the "Hosting Navy."

III. INVITATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- a. The Agency or NGO to be invited shall be nominated by a WPNS navy.

Agency

- b. The Proposing Navy shall give notification of the invitation plan and the scope of the Agency's presentation/participation to the WPNS Secretariat at the Workshop

preceding the Workshop/Symposium/Seminar/Exercise proposed for the presentation.

c. A representative from an extra-regional naval symposium, who is invited to present papers at a Workshop/Symposium/Seminar or participate in an Exercise as an observer, shall be accorded an observer status in these activities that is separate and distinct from the formally approved WPNS Observer status.

d. Any objections to the nomination of the Agency shall be registered by the WPNS navy at the WPNS Workshop at which the proposal was made OR to the next Hosting Navy within three months after the WPNS Workshop in which it was proposed. The early advice is necessary to give the Proposing Navy sufficient time to confirm the availability of the invited Agency and to decide whether to carry on with the invitation.

e. The Agencies, and number of them, to be invited to a Workshop/Symposium/Seminar/Exercise is left to the discretion of the Hosting Navy, taking into consideration the comments and recommendations of the preceding Workshop, giving due consideration to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Workshop/Symposium/Seminar/Exercise.

f. The invitation of governmental agencies belonging to a non-WPNS country may be reviewed at the request of a member(s) of the WPNS.

NGO

