



International Oil Pollution  
Compensation Funds

Fonds internationaux  
d'indemnisation pour les  
dommages dus à la pollution  
par les hydrocarbures

Fondos internacionales  
de indemnización de daños  
debidos a contaminación por  
hidrocarburos

Presentation of award to Dr Reinhard Ganten by Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim,  
on the occasion of the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IOPC Funds

Good evening to all distinguished participants and guests. I would like to congratulate all the family of the IOPC Funds. As the Director, José Maura, mentioned, it has been, I believe, a glorious successful story so far for the last 40 years. Even though the IOPC Funds was created by the IMO within the context of a certain, important background, based on my recollection, the path and the process so far, and which the IOPC Funds has taken to date, is an enormous success story. It has given great confidence to all within the maritime community. It created unprecedented legal and practical mechanisms and a system for compensation for oil pollution, which has been taken very seriously around the world. So, I would like to express my wholehearted appreciation and congratulations to all family of the IOPC Funds. Here we have IMO Secretary General Emeriti present, and luckily we have two Emeritus out of three, so, I am very happy to see them with us and also the Directors of the IOPC Funds, Dr Ganten, Mr Jacobsson, and Mr Oosterveen.

I believe you have made a great contribution and have been greatly devoted to the successful development of the IOPC Funds and I would like to express my wholehearted and deepest appreciation and thanks to your devotion and efforts so far. In that sense I would like to present this award to the first Director of the IOPC Fund, Dr Reinhard Ganten, and invite him to please come to the stage.



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Acceptance speech by Dr. Reinhard Ganten, Director of the IOPC Fund from 1978-1984, on receiving the award on the occasion of the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IOPC Funds

Dear Secretary-General, dear Chairmen of the Fund Assemblies, and Mr Director, dear José, it is an exceptional honour for me to be presented with this award. I am very grateful and I feel especially honoured by the fact that you, Mr Secretary-General, are making this presentation to me. I had not remotely expected such an award to be conferred on me and in expressing my sincere thanks I regard this as a fitting tribute not just for me but more particularly for you all, my past and present esteemed colleagues and friends.

We all know that the IOPC Funds are independent organisations, but we also know that without IMO's assistance at the birth of this organisation we would not have been able to have such a relatively easy start in our operations. It all started at the 1969 Brussels Conference when, in parallel with the adoption of the Civil Liability Convention, States committed themselves to developing an additional compensation scheme complementing the shipowners liability. The Fund Convention, translating this commitment into legal language, was adopted in 1971 and entered into force in 1978. And this is the very date we are celebrating today and this, Mr Secretary General, is the day on which we feel obliged to express our very sincere gratitude to IMO for the assistance given in those early days to the Fund. I myself, having managed the initial set-up, am especially pleased to have the opportunity today to express my thanks to IMO.

To start our operations on 4 December 1978, when I arrived from Germany to build up this organisation, we were given rooms for our staff and a very competent secretary was chosen and waited for me and my instructions. A loan was granted for the first salaries and the necessary office equipment, but especially and most importantly, all IMO staff were prepared and willing to answer all my questions. There were indeed many issues to address, on administrative and substantive matters as well as establishing contact with the many people I had to deal with, including the P&I Clubs, Cristal and ITOPE. I also had to accustom you all to my personal habits such as my lunchtime siesta and the expectation not to be disturbed!

Let me mention just a few people from the many IMO staff of those days to whom I am very grateful. I would like to recall a few names: Mr. Srivastava, the then Secretary-General, Mr Anderson, the Head of the Financial Department on whom I had to rely for quite some time, and from the Legal Department Dr Mensah, Tom Busha and Christoph Zimmerli, all of whom became my close friends after only a short while.

In the 40 years of its existence the IOPC Fund has considerably grown in membership, in responsibilities and activities, in staff and in reputation. Having been charged with the responsibility of founding and establishing the Fund, this is exactly what I, as its founding director, had expected. But such success is not automatic, it is the result of the hard work of my competent successors Måns Jacobsson, Willem Oosterveen and the present Director José Maura. And I am very pleased to know that – at the present time, the Funds are very well governed by the Assemblies, under the chairmanship of you, Mr Sivertsen, and you, Mr Kim, and by our excellent Director, José Maura. It remains for me to wish the IOPC Funds a very prosperous future. In Germany we conclude our wishes at such occasions with the Latin words: *vivat, "crescat, floreat ad multos annos"*, which means for those of you not being familiar with the Latin language: *"Let it live, let it grow, let it flourish for many years to come."*

Thank you for your attention.