



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 Mr Willem Oosterveen by Chairman of the Supplementary Fund Assembly,
Mr Sungbum Kim, on the occasion of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the IOPC Funds

Thank you, Director. It is my great honour and pleasure to present this special award to Mr Willem Oosterveen who served as the Director of the IOPC Funds from 2006 to 2011. As many of you in this room are well aware, he significantly contributed to the work of the IOPC Funds in many ways and in exceptional ways, as the Director as well as the Chairman of the 1971 Fund Executive Committee and of the 1992 Fund Assembly.

In particular, he has shown his excellent leadership in dealing with major oil spill incidents involving the IOPC Funds. One of the tragic incidents that took place in his term as Director was the Hebei Spirit that took place in my country, the Republic of Korea. This is the incident that brought me today to this room, this podium. He was there on the site from the very beginning of the incident. Given the circumstances, where there was enormous frustration, anger and disappointment amongst the victims of the incident, he was very courageous to do that. He wanted to make sure that the IOPC Funds was seen, he wanted the system to be there to compensate the victims of the oil spill incident. He wanted the victims to understand the system and they expected that they would be compensated. On site, he was reasoning, reassuring, knowledgeable and an ultimate diplomat. Afterwards, he made sure that the IOPC Funds was responsive to the needs of the victims and the government. The local claims office was established and a large number of experts were engaged to assess claims submitted by more than 120,000 claimants. It was a very large operation and it turned out to be the biggest incident in the history of IOPC Funds. I believe that the reason why the close cooperation with all parties concerned in this incident was so good was because Willem was there and he had a very good, practical and simple approach to the management of the incident and his role as the Director.

Being pragmatic and implementing the complex procedures of the IOPC Funds at the same time is not easy but he did his job in an exceptional way. I am sure that everyone in this room will agree that he is a good thinker, brilliant and someone who is ready to think outside the box, and he used these capabilities to achieve very good results during his term as Director. For this, on behalf of all in this room today I would like to thank you very much. Now, I invite him to the podium.