



IONS PREPARATORY WORKSHOP
HOSTED BY THE KENYA NAVY
AT MOMBASA FROM 01 – 02 OCTOBER 2009

PURPOSE

The preparatory workshop was aimed at providing a forum where member navies would be able to deliberate and discuss common interest issues in the spirit of promoting new avenues of enhancing friendship and professional cooperation in the IOR at the end of which it was expected that a finalized list of Agenda items and theme for the IONS Summit – 2010 would be agreed upon.

The workshop evidenced participation by nominees from 15 member navies each of who made invaluable contributions and recommendations making this activity a truly all inclusive process.

SESSION 1 – OPENING CEREMONY

The Commander of the Kenya Navy, Major General S J Mwathethe outlined that the primary aim of IONS was to create Allied Naval Partnerships, establish a high degree of inter-operability, share information and to explore ways to overcome trans-national maritime threat, natural disasters and maintain good order at sea.

In his key note address, the Chief Guest, Lt Gen J W Karangi VCGS, Kenya Armed Forces, applauded the conceivers of the IONS initiative and the member navies for efforts towards mitigating maritime insecurity in the IOR. He also noted that Indian Ocean Sea Lanes of Communication are heavily relied upon by world economies for trade, and the current threats of piracy and armed robbery at sea dictate an increased naval cooperation and interaction which can only be attained through coordinated efforts like sharing of information, experiences and ideas.



SESSION 2/3 – PRESENTATIONS

The workshop adopted its schedule as a basis for their discussion with a view to giving recommendations for the IONS meeting to be held in UAE in March 2010.

The following Presentations were made:

- (a) Kenya's Efforts at Combating Piracy by Kenya Navy.
- (b) Brief on IONS Essay Competition – 2009 by SAN.
- (c) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations by Bangladesh Navy.
- (d) Overview of the IONS Technical Seminar 2009 by Sri Lanka Navy.
- (e) Brief by IONS Secretariat by Indian Navy.
- (f) Secretariat Members on IONS Essay competition as a way of learning from each other to discuss issues affecting our Navies.
- (g) Member countries are to address the issue of Observer Status of Non – Indian Ocean Region Membership.