

ROPME

SEA KAPs



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TRAINING COURSE ON CHEMICAL RESPONSE: LEVEL - 3 INCIDENT COMMANDER



Kingdom of Bahrain, 5 – 9 June 2004

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision 14 of the 12th Meeting of ROPME Council (September 2003), a five-day Training Course on Chemical Incident Response Level – 3 (Incident Commanders) was convened in the Kingdom of Bahrain during 5 – 9 June 2004.



OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Course were to train the Chemical Incident Commanders in preparing themselves to control the operation of and responding to chemical incident combating, deployment of chemical incident equipment and cleanup operations as well as management of chemical waste transportation and storage.

ATTENDANCE

The Workshop was attended by delegates from ROPME Member States, namely the Kingdom of Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as representatives of Bahrain Civil Defence and Fire Services; Bahrain Society of Engineers; S. S. Naval Support Activity, Bahrain; Ports, Customs and Free Zone Company Dubai, UAE; and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), UAE. The Workshop was delivered by O'Brien group's specialists Mr. Robin Perry, Senior Emergency Response Consultant, and Captain John Dipple, Director, OOPS Europe, and MEMAC's professional staff.

Each participant was provided with a Course File and a List of Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment (Booklet and CD).



OPENING OF THE COURSE

The Workshop commenced at 09:00 a.m. on Saturday, 5th June 2004.

On behalf of H. E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, the Executive Secretary of ROPME, Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director, welcomed the participants to this important Training Workshop, stating that it reflected the requirement of the Member States to have their national cadres, namely the Chemical incident commanders, trained in preparing themselves and responding to emergency cases of marine pollution by hazardous and noxious chemical substances.



He stated that ROPME Sea Area (RSA) faces environmental threats caused not only by transportation of oil by sub-standard vessels and pouring out ballast water by oil tankers into the sea, but also by transportation of different hazardous and noxious chemicals which occasionally occur within RSA. Moreover, the petrochemical industries have grown rapidly for the last decade where the investment in chemicals exceeds US \$ 150 billion in the Region.



He said that most of the previous training courses had dealt with issues concerning mainly oil pollution and chemical combating training of the operators while the current course was going to deal with chemicals from the administrative point of view, and hence came its importance for the participants.

At the end of his speech, he wished all the participants a fruitful and beneficial training workshop.

CONTENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop contents were covered by theoretical lectures delivered by the Experts and top-table practice carried out by the participants with the assistance of MEMAC's Professional Staff.





The participants of the Workshop went through the theoretical and top-table practical sessions discussing different issues on chemical substances including the following:

- Hazardous characteristics of chemicals;
- Sources of information and substance identification;
- Potential and actual sources of chemical incidents;
- Decontamination;
- Incident response implementation;
- Setting a chemical response operation;
- Incident command system (an overview);
- Control and containment;
- Waste issues;
- Managing media relations;
- and response cards;
- Behaviour of chemical substances;
- Personal protective equipment;
- On site safety considerations;
- Respiratory protection;
- Risk assessment;
- Site entry and reconnaissance;
- Predicting the drift and spread of chemical spills;
- Incident management;
- Termination procedures;
- Legal issues;
- Nuclear, biological and chemical threats (an Overview).



It is worth mentioning here that a lecture on Nuclear Biological and Chemical Threat (An Overview) was praiseworthy delivered by the course guest Mr. Kirk E. Davis of SEACOR Environmental Services, Middle East Ltd.



It is noteworthy that on his initiative, the representative of Bahrain Civil Defence, Mr. Mohammad Slais, arranged a demonstration of some chemical protective equipment in the second-day morning session. He demonstrated the equipment, which included a chemical protective suit, a mask with goggles and a gas detector, and explained how to use it. The participants praised Mr. Slais for his useful demonstration.

CLOSURE OF THE COURSE

At the closing ceremony of the Course, Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, Director of MEMAC, exchanged opinions with the participants on different issues related to the Course and other relevant activities. Then Captain Al-Janahi thanked the experts, Mr. Robin Perry and Mr. John Dippie, for their useful and interesting lectures. He also thanked the representative of Bahrain Civil Defence, Mr. M. Slais for his active participation and useful initiative. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to Mr. Kirk Davis for his lecture on Nuclear Biological and Chemical Threat. He also extended his thanks to all the participants for their active participation and deliveries and wished them all the best in their work.

At the end, Captain Al-Janahi distributed the Workshop Certificates to the participants.

The Workshop was declared closed at 13:30 hours on Wednesday, 9th June 2004.

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