

ROPME

SEA KAPS



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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP



BAHRAIN, 14-17 NOVEMBER 1999

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision CM10/19 of the Tenth Meeting of ROPME Council, a Workshop on National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Emergency Drill was convened in Bahrain during the period 14-17 November 1999. The main objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Development of National Contingency Plans
- Promote oil spill response capability building of Member States personnel
- Provide technical assistance in preparation of National Contingency Plans
- Exercise and review the existing Member States National Contingency Plans
- Enhance and strengthen the spirit of Regional Co-operation in oil spill prevention & response



The Meeting was attended by Member State Representatives, all Bahrain National Contingency Plan Parties, ITOPF Representative, Assessors and Observers, as well as the Executive Secretary of ROPME and Professional Staff of MEMAC.

OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop was opened at 14:30 hours on Sunday, 14 November 1999 by H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of ROPME, and by Mr. Khalid M. Fakhro, Director General for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Housing, Municipalities and Environment, Bahrain.



HE. Dr. A. R. Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary, welcomed all the participants and thanked Mr. Fakhro and conveyed his appreciation to H.E. Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa, Minister of Housing, Municipalities and Environment. H.E. Dr. Al-Awadi stated that the aim of this Workshop is to commence a sequence of practices of selected National Contingency Plans and to discuss the Development of the Regional Contingency Plan in order to integrate all National Plans into a Regional Plan.

He then emphasized the importance of carrying out the response collectively as marine pollution emergencies are not easy to combat. Further, he explained the importance of the Regional Contingency Plan as Member States are surrounding a semi-enclosed highly sensitive Sea Area.

Mr. Khalid M. Fakhro began his statement by welcoming H.E. Dr. Al-Awadi and all the participants and observers in this event, which was organized in co-operation with MEMAC, conveying H.E. Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa, Minister of Housing, Municipalities and Environment, best wishes and the success for the Workshop. Further Mr. Fakhro called the participants to deal with the exercise seriously and give their valuable comments in order to improve the National Contingency Plan of Bahrain.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

The Workshop activities were divided into three parts. The first part was the table top exercise which consisted of a pre-briefing session followed by the table top exercise, a scenario set specifically for the area of Mina Sulman, Bahrain, and later a de-briefing session. The second part of the Workshop was a live demonstration of oil spill response equipment deployment at Mina Sulman. The third part of the Workshop was a presentation on the regional oil spill contingency planning and the MEMAC Safety Guide.

The Workshop commenced with the table top exercise where all Bahrain National Contingency Plan response team members addressed the spill scenario given. Member States representatives and other appropriate organizations acted as observers. Two international experts acted as assessors for the exercise which was directed by MEMAC staff and the Head of Civil Defence/Fire Services.

The table top exercise was followed by a live demonstration of oil spill response equipment at Mina Sulman, the main commercial port of Bahrain. Deployment of the equipment was accompanied by an explanation by MEMAC Staff, and an oil spill was simulated using saw dust.

Professor Theodore Sampson presented the regional contingency plan which had been previously prepared by MEMAC. He highlighted the importance of considering the regional contingency plan within each national contingency plan. The presentation was followed by discussions with the Member State participants.

Professor Theodore Sampson highlighted the importance of safety procedures and precautions during preparing for and combating oil pollution. He introduced the Safety Guide briefly covering its content. The presentation is given as Annex VI. The Safety Guide will be circulated to all Member States by mid December 1999.





CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- During exercises, include OTHER ASSOCIATED PLANS site specific for main areas. These should be tested to show effectiveness in line with the NOSCP.
- CONDUCT OR PROVIDE GENERAL and/or REFRESHER TRAINING IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE. Some key decision makers may not be fully familiar with the basics of OSR. (Oil movement, deployment times, etc.) All response team members should be fully trained.
- Incorporate Technical Advisers into the response team considered most appropriate. Arrange suitable training as required.
- In addition to the main NOSCP an easy reference step by step summary plan (Drawn from information contained in the main plan) should be developed . (For easy and rapid reference during the initial stages of a response)
- In updating any NOSCP particular reference should be made to the authorisations which prevail with regard to DEPUTIES and ALTERNATES
- A position to cover the FULL ADMINISTRATION OF THE NOSCP must be established. This position would be responsible for the regular update and revision of the plan, including control and distribution to authorised plan holders. In short complete plan coordination.
- REGULAR EXERCISES & DRILLS should be initiated as ongoing validation of the



NOSCP and the DEPLOYMENT OF EQUIPMENT RESOURCES. Exercises may be in the form of tabletop, practical or a combination of the two.

- ALL GOVERNMENT OSR EQUIPMENT should be renovated as appropriate and thereafter maintained and tested promptly on a regular basis. Any equipment beyond repair should be disposed of promptly.
- In any response PERSONNEL SAFETY is of prime importance and due reference should be made to the recently published MEMAC MARINE SAFETY GUIDE, particularly with respect to PROTECTIVE & SAFETY APPAREL to be utilised by responders.
- A central location should be agreed for the setting up of a permanent MARINE EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTRE. The Centre, which could be JOINTLY FUNDED by Government and Private Sector, would comprise appropriate COMMUNICATION FACILITIES in addition to all the necessary CHARTS, MAPS and other equipment and furniture required during protracted emergency response. The facility could be set up either as a dedicated Centre or within a suitable location used for other activities (e.g. training), but recognising that any marine emergency, which includes oil spills, has an over riding priority for its use. The facility should comfortably accommodate up to 16 persons (OSC, team chiefs, secretarial support and a limited number of Technical Advisers). The Centre should be developed in a cost effective manner appropriate to meet the perceived needs of the State.

On behalf of H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Captian A. Munem M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director, thanked the participants for their co-operation and valuable input which fully contributed to the successful conclusion of the workshop.

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