

ROPME SEA KAPS



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FIRST OIL SPILL RESPONSE OFFICERS MEETING



BAHRAIN, 13 NOVEMBER 1999

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the ROPME Council Decision CM 10/19 concerning the provision of support to ROPME Member States in the areas of preparedness and strengthening of National Contingency Plans, the First Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO) Meeting was convened in Bahrain on 13 November, 1999.



The main objectives of the meeting were to review the duties and responsibilities of OSRO; highlight difficulties encountered in performing their duties and propose alternative administrative approaches, and introduce Oil Spill Response officers to their counterparts and exchange current contact details.

THE OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was attended by the Oil Spill Response Officers of ROPME Member States, MEMAC Consultants, as well as the Executive



Secretary of ROPME H. E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi and Professional Staff of MEMAC.

The Meeting was opened by H. E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, who welcomed the participants and wished them a successful meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the great role played by the Response Officers, being the “Standby-Guards” who should be accessible at any time. He also stated that the burden put on their shoulders is heavy but they are well qualified and fit to provide the direct linkage between the Focal Point in each Member State and MEMAC as the main regional co-ordinator for immediate response during marine pollution emergencies.

Two working papers had been prepared for the Meeting in respect of the subject as follows:

- Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Shahri, Consultant, introduced the job description for the Oil Spill Response Officers, basic functions and principal duties.
- MEMAC Technical Adviser, Mr. Derek Brown, presented a paper on the duties and responsibilities of Response Officers covering contact

details, oil spill monitoring and reporting, oil spill response resources, immigration import clearance procedures and gathering evidence for damage assessment and claims.

Based on the two working papers the Meeting decided to define the basic functions, principal contacts and duties of OSRO.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meeting was concluded by the following recommendations:

Annual Meetings for the Response Officers in order to exchange information and review their Task Plans. These meetings could coincide with the series of National Oil Spill Contingency (NOSC) Plan Exercises planned by MEMAC.

OSRO to carry out regular updating of the list of equipment and materials with such updates being reported to MEMAC. Additionally, to report immediately any major change to the list of equipment to MEMAC.





MEMAC to assist OSRO in providing regular third party physical checks and audits of the condition of OSR equipment.

OSRO to initiate regular drills to validate procedures and communications which are essential to build good team spirit within NOSR organization.

Include the OSRO as a key member of the National Contingency Plan organisation.

Pre-arranged procedures required to facilitate immigration and customs clearance in an oil spill emergency.

At least one assistant OSRO to be designated in each case in order to ensure reliable availability of such a contact at all times.

To encourage the recruitment of competent national response officers the meeting felt that appropriate incentives should be provided by Member States.



MEMAC to be informed immediately of incidents and requests for technical assistance whenever needed and must identify and quantify equipment required to prevent incorrect and excessive response action.

Collection of evidence and information required for penalties and claims must be undertaken at the earliest stage of any incident.

The meeting also agreed that internal security clearance arrangements for movement of personnel and equipment during oil spill emergencies are to be facilitated at the national level.

Further, the Oil Spill Response Officers were urged to communicate within their respective States seeking prior approval for use of available aircraft and helicopter in order to mobilise combating equipment during any oil spill incident.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

At the closure of the Meeting, H. E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, thanked the participants for their spirit of co-operation and valuable input which greatly contributed to the successful completion of the Meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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