

ROPME

SEA KAPs



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TRAINING COURSE ON FIRST RESPONDERS ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS: LEVEL – 1 (OPERATORS)



Kingdom of Bahrain, 17th – 21st January 2004

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision 14 of the Twelfth Meeting of the ROPME Council (September 2003), a five-day Training Workshop on First Responders on Oil Spill Response and Preparedness Level –1 (Operators) was convened in the Kingdom of Bahrain during 17th – 21st January 2004.



OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Training Workshop were the training of Oil Spill Operators in preparing themselves and responding to oil spill combating, deployment of oil spill equipment, shoreline evaluation and cleanup operations as well as management of waste transportation and storage.

ATTENDANCE

The Workshop was attended by delegates from the ROPME Member States, namely the Kingdom of Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, as well as representatives of Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), Bahrain Coast Guard, Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), Saudi Arabia, and the United States Coast Guard in Bahrain. The Workshop was delivered by O'Brien group's specialists Mr. Robin Perry, Sr. Emergency Response Consultant, and Mr. Simon Valentine, Operations Manager, and MEMAC professional staff.



OPENING OF THE COURSE

The Workshop commenced at 09:15 a.m. Saturday the 17th of January 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 oil spill operators, trained in preparing themselves and responding to emergency cases of marine pollution by oil spills and other harmful substances. He stated that the ROPME Sea Area (RSA) faces tremendous environmental threats caused by different human activities including transportation of oil by sub-standard vessels and discharging ballast water by oil tankers into the sea.

In concluding, Captain Al-Janahi wished all the participants a fruitful and beneficial training workshop.

CONTENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop content was covered theoretically and practically by the Experts and MEMAC Professional Staff. The practical exercises were carried out on a sandy and rocky beach in Manama, while the deployment of different relevant equipment, which belonged to MEMAC Training Centre and BAPCO, was carried out in Mina Sulman Port at MEMAC Regional Training Centre.



The participants of the Workshop went through the theoretical sessions for the first three days, focusing on different matters including: sources of oil in the marine environment; spill properties, behavior and fate; introduction to response strategies; environmental considerations; contingency planning overview; spill management; oil spill response safety; spill evaluation; containment and protection; recovery devices; dispersants; shoreline cleanup; shoreline supervisor or beach-master; waste management; and site safety plan.

The third and fourth days were dedicated to the practical exercises which were carried out, as said above, on a sandy and rocky beach in Manama and at Mina Sulman Port where two boats, provided by the Coast Guard were used and different oil spill combating equipment were deployed. These equipment, which were demonstrated and explained by the Experts and used by the participants themselves, included curtain booms, fence booms, absorbent booms, a skimmer and a polyurethane fast-tank. The participants raised different useful questions while using the equipment.





CLOSURE OF THE COURSE

Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, the Director of MEMAC thanked the Experts for their useful and interesting lectures. He also thanked the participants for their active participation in both the theoretical and practical sessions of the Workshop. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Bahrain Coast Guard and BAPCO for their cooperation with MEMAC in providing the Workshop with the needed equipment.



Then Captain Al-Janahi distributed the Workshop Certificates to the participants.

Before the closure of the Workshop, the Experts presented a Memento to Captain A. M. Al-Janahi as a token of appreciation and gratitude for organizing different environmentally important activities.

The Workshop was declared closed at 14:30 hours on Wednesday, the 21st January 2004.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BAHRAIN

Mr. Jaffar Ali Abdulla ISHAQ
Extension and Marine Control
Maintenance Specialist
Directorate of Fisheries and Marine Resources
P.O. Box 20071

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Tel: (973) 729595
Fax: (973) 728459

Mr. Adel Ahmed AL MAJED

Environmental Affairs
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 9626499

I.R.IRAN

Ms. Ghazal CHILAN
Environmental Expert
Marine Environment Research Bureau
P.O. Box 15875-5181

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Tel: (98) 21 8903720/8808776
Fax: (98) 21 8907223
E-Mail: chilan_gazelle@hotmail.com

Mr. Hossein ABDOLI

Marine Environment Senior Expert
Ports and Shipping Organization
Port of Imam Khomani
Marine Protection and Safety Office

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Tel: (98) 6522527492/6522522492
Fax: (98) 6522522488
E-Mail: Abdoli@yahoo.com
Abdoli@khomeiniport.com

Mr. Nasser KEIVAN RAD

Marine Environment Senior Expert
Ports and Shipping Organization
No. 751, Enghelab Avenue, Tehran

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Tel: (98) 21 8809326
Fax: (98) 21 8809555
E-Mail: kayvanrad@hotmail.com
kayvanrad@ir-pso.com

OMAN

Mr. Abdullah Said AL-BUSAFI

Environmental Technician
Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment
and Water Resources
P.O. Box 646, Code 130
Muscat

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Tel: (968) 9219429/693666
Fax: (968) 6937126
E-Mail: busafi@hotmail.com

QATAR

Mr. Hussain Saad AL-KUBAISI

Chemical Engineer
Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural
Reserves
P.O. Box 9035

STATE OF QATAR

Tel: (974) 44371717/5515211
Fax: (974) 4415246
E-Mail: Hkobaishi2006@hotmail.com

Mr. Saif SHANDHOUR

Environmental Researcher
Supreme Council for the Environment and
Natural Reserves
P.O. Box 6884

STATE OF QATAR

Tel: (974) 44371717/5022554
Fax: (974) 4415246

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Abdul Karim A. ABDULWASIA

Mining Engineers
Presidency of Meteorology and Environment

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Tel: (966) 2 6512312
Fax: (966) 2 6516426
E-Mail: AKR_AWS@hotmail.com

Mr. Mahmood A. MAGREBI
Oil Spill Operator
Presidency of Meteorology and Environment
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 2 6512312
Fax: (966) 2 6516426

U.A.E

Captain Hesham Hussein FAWZY
Pollution Officer
Port of Fujairah
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Tel: (971) 50 6906797
Fax: (971) 9 2281429
E-Mail: epc1_pof@fujairahport.ae
hhfawzy@emirates.net.ae

Mr. Yousef Jassim M. AL-ALI
Head of Environment Protection Section
Abu Dhabi Seaport Authority
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Tel: (971) 2 6732671/50 -6116595
Fax: (971) 2 6730090
E-Mail: env-friends_soc@hotmail.com

BAPCO

Mr. Ali Mohammed ATTAR
Senior Loading Master
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 757712
Fax: (973) 757707
E-Mail: Ali_Mohammed_Attar@bapco.dom

Mr. A. Rasool M. AL-JAFFARI
Supervisor
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 75 5972
Fax: (973)
E-Mail: A_RASOOL_MOHD@BAPCO.NET

SWCC

Mr. Tariq F. AL NAHDI
Diver, Al Khobar Plant
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 55 826946
Fax: (966) 3 8904233
E-Mail: TALNAHDI@hotmail.com
T_JAJA@yahoo.com

Mr. Hamad M. R. AL-MOSABEH
Blushin Tech
Al Jubail Plant
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 3 3430208
Fax: (966) 3 3430333 Ext. 30801

Mr. Hassan K. AL-AMRI
Shift Chemist
Shoaibah Plan
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 55 728982
Fax: (966) 2 6375757
E-Mail: hassan87@yahoo.com

Mr. Mohammed A. AL-NOMANI
Technician I for Safety and Fire
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 56344479

Mr. Saeed Abdullah AL-GHAMD
Mechanical Engineer
SWCC (Jeddah)
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966) 55 604680
E-Mail: SOSALGHAMD@hotmail.com

OBSERVERS

Captain Ayaz Faiz MALIK
CGD Police
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 9676599
Fax: (973) 17342827
E-Mail: FAHAD8961@yahoo.com

Lt. Col. Mohammed AL-SADEH
Bahrain Coast Guard
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 340333
Fax: (973) 342827

R/O. Sultan SALEM
Nokhazia
Bahrain Coast Guard
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 9631139/340300
Fax: (973) 17342827

OBSERVERS

Shurti Hassan AHMED
Training School
Bahrain Coast Guard
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 9876530/340300
Fax: (973) 17342827

Lt. Jassim Mohd. AL DOSSARY
Coast Guard Directorate
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (9783) 340300
Fax: (973) 17342827

Major Abdul Rahman Juma SALEM
Bahrain Coast Guard
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 17340575
Fax: (973) 17342827
E-Mail: AbdulBaskt@hotmail.com

Mr. Bassam AL-SHOWAIKH
Marine Biologist
Directorate of Marine Resources
P.O. Box 20071
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 17729595
Fax: (973) 728459
E-Mail: happiness33@hotmail.com

Mr. Binoy CHACKO
Environmental Protection Specialist
NSA
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 17 854602
Fax: (973) 17 85 3028
E-Mail: chackob_Indian@nsa.bahrain.navy.mil

Mr. Shajan K. VARUGHESE
Safety Specialist
NSA,
PSC 451, Safety Department
FP 09834-2300
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 17853455
Fax: (973) 17853526
E-Mail: varugheese_Indian@nsa.bahrain.navy.mil

SWCC

Mr. Robin PERRY
Sr. Emergency Response Consultant
The O'Brien's Group
The Old Cider Mill, High Street, North Wotton
Near Shepton Mallet
Somerset BA4 4HA
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: (44) 1749 899267/7785 243011
Fax: (44) 1749 899267
E-Mail: robin.perry@theobriensgroup.com

Mr. Simon VALENTINE
Operations Manager
DV Howells Limited
The MPSC, Milford Haven
Pembrokeshire SA73 3AQ
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: (44) 1646 697941
Fax: (44) 1646 696345
E-Mail: info@dvhowells.com

MEMAC

Dr. Abdul Majeed AL-BALUCHI
Information-Training Officer
MEMAC
P.O. Box 10112, Manama
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel: (973) 274554
Fax: (973) 274551
E-Mail: memac@batelco.com.bh

ROPME - P.O.Box : 26388, Safat 13124, KUWAIT - Tel: (965) 5312140 Fax: 5324172/5335243
E-Mail: ropme@qualitynet.net - Web Site: http: www.ropme.net
MEMAC - P.O.Box : 10112, Manama, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN - Tel: (973) 274554 - Fax: 274551
E-Mail: memac@batelco.com.bh - Web Site: http: www.memac-rsa.org