

**ROPME**

# SEA KAPS



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## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP



**BAHRAIN, 14-17 NOVEMBER 1999**

## INTRODUCTION

**I**n 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



**T**he 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

**T**he 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.





**H**E. 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.

**H**e 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.

**M**r. 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

**T**he 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.

**T**he 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.

**T**he 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.

**P**rofessor 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.

**P**rofessor 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.



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Mr. Khalid M. FAKHRO**

Director General for Environmental Affairs  
Ministry of Housing, Municipalities and Environment

**Dr. Juma Ahmed AL-KAABI**

Director, Environmental Affairs  
Ministry of Housing, Municipalities & Environment

**Mr. Mirza Salman KHALAF**

Sr. Environmental Specialist  
Ministry of Housing, Municipalities & Environment

**Mr. Humood Abdula AHMED**

Environmental Specialist  
Ministry of Housing, Municipalities and Environment

### ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**Mr. Mohammad RASTAD**

Head of Maritime Safety Dep of Bushehr Port,  
Ports & Shipping Org., Maritime Affairs

### STATE OF KUWAIT

**Capt. Ali HAIDER**

Director, Marine Pollution Monitoring  
Environment Public Authority

### SULTANATE OF OMAN

**Mr. Faisal Hamood AL-HASANI**

Environmental Inspector  
Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Environment

### STATE OF QATAR

**Dr. Amer AL-HASHIMI**

Head Environmental Operation, Environmental  
Affairs - QGPC

**Mr. Ali J. AL-SAIGEL**

Environmental Researcher  
Ministry of Municipal and Agricultural Affairs  
Environment Department

### KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**Mr. Ibrahim AL-FAHMI**

Inspector, MEPA, Oil Spill Centre

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Mr. Essa H.A. HOKAL**

Security-Safety Officer, Sharjah Port

### CONTINGENCY PLAN MEMBERS - BAHRAIN

**Mr. Amr Mohed Rashan HASSAN**

SAQR Port Authority

**Mr. Mohsin Jaffar AL QAIDOOM**

Civil Engineer, Ministry of Works & Agriculture  
Roads Directorate

**Mr. Mohamed Ali RADHI**

Youth and Sport, Friend of the Environment

**Mr. Adnan YOUSIF**

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs & Information, Internet  
Unit

**Mr. Ahmed E.K. AL-QURAAN**

Adviser Environmental Affairs, BAPCO

**Dr. A.Aziz Y. HAMZA**

Chief of Medical Staff-Doctor, Ministry of Health

**Mr. Abdulla Ashoor HASSAN**

Manager Inter Telecommunication  
BATELCO, Internal Telecom

**Mr. Yousuf Abdulla Yousuf ZAINAL**

Marine Officer Directorate General of Ports

**Mr. Mohammed A.Rahim ABDULLA**

Ministry of Health, Accident / Emergency

**Mr. Fadhel Abbas YOUSIF**

Environmental Chemist  
Ministry of Housing & Municipalities Affairs

**Mr. Ahmed Ali BOHSAYEN**

Head of Technical Services, Ministry of Finance &  
National Economy, Directorate General of Ports

## **CONTINGENCY PLAN MEMBERS (CONT.)**

**Major Hamad Abdulla AL-MARAJ**  
Ministry of Interior, Civil Defence

**Mr. Salah Salim Saif MUBARAK**  
Fire Officer, Ministry of Interior, Civil Defence & Fire

**Capt. Abdul Rahman Juma SALEM**  
Police Officer, Ministry of Interior, Coast Guard

**Mr. Sanad Rashed SANAD**  
Machine Officer, Directorate General of Ports  
Ministry of Finance & National Economy

**Mr. Mubarak Ali AL-DOSARY**  
Curator of Mammals, Al Areen Wildlife Park

**Mr. Khalid Musbah AL-KAABI**  
Manager Material Management, Central Stores Directorate, Ministry of Finance & National Economy

## **EXERCISE DIRECTORS**

**Col. Jim WINDSOR**  
Chief of Civil Defence and Fire Services  
Ministry of Interior

**Major Phil SPEECHLY**  
Training Superintendent  
Civil Defence and Fire Services

**Mr. Derek BROWN**  
Technical Advisor  
MEMAC

## **ASSESSORS**

**Mr. Anthony G. GREENWOOD**  
Anthony G. Greenwood & Associates  
U.K.

**Dr. Torsten MOLLER**  
Biologist  
International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation  
U.K.

**Mr. Brian CONAWAY**  
CDR U.S. Coast Guard  
U.S.A.

**Mr. Ronnie E. WALTERS**  
US Navy  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Cdr. Robert GREENE**  
US Navy  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Capt. Eric NICOLAUS**  
Officer-In-Charge  
Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO)  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Mr. Bill JACKSON**  
Man. Operations  
Chevron Bahrain  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Lt. Sid TOOMBS**  
US Navy - Planning Officer  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

## **ROPME**

**H. E. Dr. Abdul Rahman AL-AWADI**  
Executive Secretary  
STATE OF KUWAIT

## **MEMAC**

**Captain A.M. AL-JANAHI**  
Director, MEMAC  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Capt. Ali Haji HASAN**  
Exercise Co-ordinator  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Capt. Mazin M. AJAWI**  
Consultant  
MEMAC  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**Dr. Abdul Majeed AL-BALUSHI**  
Administrator  
MEMAC  
STATE OF BAHRAIN

**ROPME - P.O.Box: 26388, Safat 13124, KUWAIT - Tel: 5312140 - 4 - Fax: 5324172 / 5335243**  
**E-Mail: rop me@qualitynet.net - World Wide Web: <http://www.kuwait.net/~ropmek>**  
**MEMAC - P.O.Box: 10112, Manama, BAHRAIN - Tel: (973) 274554 - Fax (973) 274551**  
**E-Mail: memac@batelco.com.bh - World Wide Web: <http://www.computec.com.bh/memac>**



