

GHANA MARITIME AUTHORITY

REPORT ON

GHANA'S OFF-SHORE OIL PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

THEME

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE
POLLUTION AND EFFECTIVE OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

VENUE

**HOLIDAY INN, ACCRA
GHANA**

SEPTEMBER 24TH – 26TH 2008

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Ghana has discovered Oil in commercial quantities and is preparing to pump her first oil for commercial use by 2010. The objective of the workshop therefore was to sensitize all stakeholders within the country as regards their responsibilities towards the protection of Ghana's Marine Environment, Oil Spill Response Readiness, safety of Navigation and Maritime Security.

1.2 Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), being the responsible body for the prevention of Marine Pollution held a workshop on Ghana's Off-Shore Oil Production. With the desire to build partnership for the prevention of Marine Pollution and effective Oil Spill Response, GMA invited experts from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), sister agencies in the environmental, marine, oil spill response sector from within and outside the country as resource persons for the workshop. It was established that there was the need to revise the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan to reflect the current status of the country as a prospective oil producing country.

1.3 The 3-days workshop was successfully organized from 24th – 26th September 2008 to prepare for the prevention of marine pollution and respond adequately in case of any oil spill.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1 The objective of the Workshop is to make the target group understand the necessary institutional and legal framework for the prevention of marine pollution and the need to protect our marine environment for posterity.

3. VENUE, DATES, PARTICIPANTS AND ROLES

3.1 The workshop was held at Holiday Inn Hotel in Accra, Ghana from 24th to 26th September 2008.

3.2 Representatives from stakeholder organizations, the legislature, Oil Exploration and Producing Companies, various Governmental Ministries, Departments and Agencies participated in the workshop. In all, there were a total of 68 participants which is attached as Annex A. Resource Persons were from International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) Oil Spill Response Ltd. (UK), Transport Canada, UK Hydrographic Office, National Environmental Research Institute (S/A), Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

4. ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS

4.1 The Workshop commenced at 9:00a.m. on Wednesday 24th September 2008 and followed the programme attached as Annex B with an Opening Ceremony chaired by Capt. Aaron Turkson, Rector, Regional Maritime University, Accra Ghana.

4.2 Mr. Alex Boabeng, a private legal practitioner and an IMO Consultant briefed the house on the Marine Pollution Bill he was drafting for GMA. Mr. Jerry Rysanek, gave an opening speech on behalf of the consultants while Mr. I. P. Azuma, Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority delivered the Keynote Address, by welcoming all present and declaring the workshop officially opened.

4.3 A short video showing graphic images of marine disasters and extreme oil pollution damages highlighted the objectives of the workshop to participants. After members were taken through the general overview of the Global Initiative Project for the prevention of marine pollution by IPIECA, Dr. Lynn Jackson took her turn to explain the need for the establishment of a National legal framework for the Prevention of Marine Pollution. She drew her discussions from the OPRC 90, OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000, Marpol Annexes I-IV with particular emphasis on Annexes I & II among others. The need National Hydrographic Services Capacity towards Safety of Navigation was also clarified by Capt. David Lye of UKHO with special reference to SOLAS Chapt. 5 Reg. 9. Representative from the Ghana Petroleum Company (GNPC) presented a paper on the Environmental Specifications of GNPC and links to the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). Copies of the presentations are attached as Annexes C1, C2, and C3 respectively.

4.4 Before the table-top exercise, participants were taken through the technical aspects of Oil Spill Response in relation to Ship-Source Spills, Off-Shore Oil Exploration and Production focusing on Fate of Oil, Environmental Considerations and Response Options available by Mr. Andy Nicoll and Tristan Barston of IPIECA/OSRL (UK). This was preceded by a presentation from Environmental Protection Agency on the NOSCP for Ghana which is attached as Annex D.

4.5 The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) that was presented by Mr. Tamakloe of Environmental Protection Agency raised a lot of controversy. Questions with regards to the state of preparedness of organizations involved in the NOSCP and availability of logistics caused a lot of concerns. The virtually non-existing role of the Ghana Maritime Authority was hotly debated.

4.6 Participants formed four groups made up of seventeen each and independently engaged in a table-top exercise based on hypothetical oil spill off the coast of Ghana with the aim to encouraging them to put into practice the knowledge gained from the lectures and discussions of the workshop and to explore any short comings of the NOSCP for modification. Attached as Annex E, is the 'information sheet' for the exercise.

4.7 After successful deliberations participants made few recommendations as outlined in the communiqué attached as Annex G. Among them were the following:

- All relevant International Conventions and Instruments that had been ratified be urgently transformed into Municipal Law
- Revision of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)
- A programme of regular training for the National Oil Spill Response Team, awareness creation and training of local volunteers in the coastal communities
- Updating of Hydrographic data covering Ghanaian waters
- Sustainable research into marine biology and ecosystem and
- Acquisition of basic oil spill response equipment and materials.

4.8 Participants had the opportunity to be taken through the IOPC Fund regime, the implementation of the 1992 CLC and Fund Conventions, and various procedures of the 1992 IOPC Fund by Jerry Rysanek of Transport Canada and current Chairman of the IOPC Fund Assembly. Coming from Transport Canada, he also shared with the house, Canada's experience in the implementation of the 1992 Fund Convention. His presentations are attached as Annex F1, F2 and F3.

4.9 The Workshop successfully came to an end with a Closing Ceremony chaired by Mr. William Ansah Otu, the Board Chairman of the Ghana Maritime Authority representing the minister and GMA He read the Director-General's speech thanking all participants particularly the consultants for their time and resources contributed to the success of the workshop and assured them also that the Marine Pollution Bill which GMA has contracted a consultant to produce will be completed as soon as practicable and presented to Parliament to be enacted into Law to enable officers of GMA enforce regulations that will prevent Ship-Source and Off-Shore Marine Pollution.

5. WORKSHOP MATERIAL

Materials used apart from the presentations attached are:

- National Contingency Plan
- National Contingency Strategy
- Environmental Sensitivity Map for Coastal Areas of Ghana (Vol. 1 – Atlas), October 2004

CASE HISTORY VIDEO

- “Erika – Black Tide”
- Graphic images of Marine Disasters and Extreme Oil Pollution Damages