Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION FOR SUPERVISORS AND ON SCENE COMMANDERS

LIFE TCY99/INT/017/SYR

SAFITA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 7TH TO 10TH July 2001

REPORT

organised within the framework of the MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

with the financial support of the

LIFE THIRD COUNTRIES MECHANISM OF THE EC in collaboration with the

MINISTRY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
National Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental
Marine Pollution for Supervisors and On-Scene Commanders

Tartous / Safita, Syria, 7-10 July 2001

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A national training course on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution for Supervisors and On-Scene Commanders was held at Safita in the Arab Republic of Syria between 7th and 10th July 2001. The training course was arranged by Briggs Marine Environmental Services Ltd. under the supervision of REMPEC and in co-operation with the ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Syria.

The Course was organized as one of the training activities planned within the framework of the LIFE Third Countries project for the development of the national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the Syrian Arab Republic (TCY99/INT/017/SYR). The project is financed by the European Community through its LIFE Third Countries financial instrument and is co-ordinated by the IMO/UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea. The Course was organized in accordance with the project document, taking into consideration adjustments and decisions of the second meeting of the Steering Committee of the project.

The national training course was based on the IMO OPRC 2 model training course, with an extended desktop exercise and videos shown in the absence of being able to carry out practical exercises, due to there being no equipment in country. It was aimed at engineers and environmentalists who could be called upon to act as On Scene Commanders or Supervisors in the event of marine oil spills. Delegates were nominated by the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs from national organisations and the ports sector, all of which have responsibilities for preparedness and response under the Syrian national contingency plan.

The course was originally planned to last 5 days incorporating one day on Chemical Pollution, this day however was removed and the course reduced to 4 days duration.
ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, as the competent Syrian national authority, was responsible for the selection and invitation of participants. The Syrian administration’s responsibilities also included making the necessary arrangements for the smooth running of the training course, including *inter alia* the provision of a conference room including coffee breaks, the necessary audio-visual equipment, and the transportation within the country, as well as the identification of suitable English/Arabic interpreters. The arrangements were efficiently executed by Mr Hassan Mourjan, Director, Environment Directorate in the Coastal Area of the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Tartous.

The training course was held in the conference room of the Safita Cham Hotel, Safita. The venue proved to be excellent with good accommodation, support facilities, plenty of tea/coffee and helpful staff.

REMPEC acted as the official point of contact with the national authorities and liaised with them on the dates and venue of the training course and the identification of the appropriate participants. REMPEC also participated in the preparation of the training course programme and provided one lecturer and one course co-ordinator.

ROLES OF EXTERNAL ORGANISING PARTIES

REMPEC. (The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea).
REMPEC organised the Course, in close co-operation with the competent Syrian national authorities and was responsible in particular for:

- Identification and selection of lecturers

- Liaison with the competent Syrian national authorities regarding:
  - the dates and venue of the Training Course;
  - the identification of appropriate trainees for the Training Course in co-operation with the host country;
  - hiring simultaneous interpretation facilities;
  - issue of entry visas and facilitating immigration formalities;

- All official contacts between REMPEC and the national authorities;

- Participating in the overall design of the Training Course programme and taking the final decision regarding the approval of the programme.

- Providing two REMPEC representatives: one as a lecturer; the other to act as liaison officer and Course co-ordinator.

- Hiring simultaneous interpretation from English into Arabic.

- Ensuring the availability of all teaching aids.
BMES (BRIGGS MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.)

BMES acted under the supervision of REMPEC and provided the following services for the preparation and delivery of the Course:

- Preparation of the programme and the content of the Course, in close cooperation with REMPEC.
- Providing two qualified instructors who presented eleven lectures at the Course.
- Making necessary travel arrangements for the instructors.
- Preparing and conducting a tabletop exercise that was held on the last day of the Course.
- Providing each trainee with a copy of the Course Manual, in addition supplying four copies for REMPEC files (Total 30 copies).
- Preparing Course certificates.
- Preparing the Final Report on the Course (10 copies) and a Financial Report.
- Providing a group photo of the participants in the Course.

The costs of preparing the written materials, the interpretation services and equipment, as well as the fees, travel costs and DSA of lecturers were paid from the budget of the project TCY99/INT/017/SYR and effected through the contract between REMPEC and BMES.

The training course was conducted in both English and Arabic with simultaneous translation being provided from English into Arabic and vice versa where necessary.

A total of twenty six (26) participants attended the national training course. Organisations which sent representatives included Ministry of State for the Environmental Affairs, General Directorate of Ports, the Ports of Tartous, Banias, Arwad, Tartous Civil Defence, Tartous and Banias Terminals, Banias Refinery and Tartous Youth Union. The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The opening ceremony was conducted by His Excellency Fadllalah NaserAldin, Vice-minister for the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. The overall
objective of the course was to provide the participants with the knowledge and information required for preparing and responding effectively to accidental marine pollution incidents in Syria. The course content adhered to the Supervisors/On-scene Commanders programme as laid down by the IMO (IMO Level 2). It included such topics as contingency planning, spill evaluation, legal considerations, safety, shoreline clean-up, mechanical containment and recovery, use of dispersants and sorbents and dealing with the media. Course certificates reflected this (Annex 5). In order to achieve their objectives, BMES and REMPEC prepared a training course programme, which included 17 lectures, all of which were illustrated by various visual aids (videos, overheads, power-point). The practical elements of the course included a tabletop exercise dealing with an imaginary oil spill scenario and demonstration of sorbents. It is regrettable that there is no response equipment in-country that could be used for a practical exercise. A copy of the course programme is given in Annex 2. The course programme ran from 0900 to 1500 with coffee breaks, so as to provide greater flexibility for those travelling long distances and others using the local transport system. The full content of the course was covered in the four-day period, though timings changed to allow for questions and overrun.

Three lecturers (Annex 3) gave the lectures. Trainees were given course manuals that contained copies of the power-point slides used in the lecturers’ presentations plus amplifying notes. A list of the published documents distributed to the participants is given in Annex 4.

The final day of the course was devoted to a desk-top exercise and a session on the status of the national system for preparedness and response in Syria made by Mr Ali Dayoub, Head of the Marine Anti-pollution Department of the General Directorate of Ports.
Mr Hassan Mourjan, representing Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, closed the training course, assisted by Mr Darko Domovic (REMPEC) and BMES Lecturers. Participants were presented with numbered Certificates of attendance and a group photograph. (Certificate numbers awarded to the participants are included in Annex 1). A copy of the certificate is given in Annex 5.

CONCLUSIONS

The training course was aimed at officials within the Syrian, Ministry of State for the Environment's Department in Coastal Areas, Tartous, officers of the General Directorate of Ports and personnel within the ports and petroleum sector of the area who would be expected to respond to marine pollution events in the coastal area as On Scene Commanders or Team Leaders/Supervisors. To a large extent the participants were of the managerial level expected, although it would have been helpful to have some representatives from exploration and production oil companies.

The participants that attended at the invitation of the Ministry of State for the Environment were clearly appropriate. This is confirmed by the fact that the course evaluation questionnaire (Analysis Annex 6) showed that all participants considered that the course objectives were met and the new skills could be used back at their workplace.
There was a high degree of active participation manifested, in particular, by the level of questions and interaction between lecturers and trainees. Most participants considered that the inclusion of a practical deployment exercise would have improved their overall understanding.
## ANNEX 1

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate No.</th>
<th>Name of Participant</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001938</td>
<td>Mr Adeb Al Masri</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001939</td>
<td>Mr Asa’ad Mouhamad</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001940</td>
<td>Mr Khattar Sara</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001941</td>
<td>Ms Shadia Khadoor</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>001942</td>
<td>Ms Majd Ghanem</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>001943</td>
<td>Mr Ahmad Wassouf</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>001944</td>
<td>Ms Suihila Beter</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>001945</td>
<td>Ms Rana Hanna</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001946</td>
<td>Ms Feda’a Mustaffa</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001947</td>
<td>Mr Allam Ebrahim</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>001948</td>
<td>Mr Gabra Saade</td>
<td>Ministry of State for Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001951</td>
<td>Mr Ali Dayoub</td>
<td>General Directorate of Ports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001952</td>
<td>Mr Adbullah Allouf</td>
<td>General Directorate of Ports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001953</td>
<td>Mr Nazih Slaiman</td>
<td>General Directorate of Ports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001954</td>
<td>Mr Waseem Saeed</td>
<td>General Directorate of Ports</td>
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<tr>
<td>001955</td>
<td>Mr Tysair Ali</td>
<td>General Directorate of Ports</td>
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<tr>
<td>001956</td>
<td>Mr Ebrahim Suliman</td>
<td>Civil Defence</td>
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<tr>
<td>001959</td>
<td>Mr Rami Ali</td>
<td>Banias Terminal</td>
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<tr>
<td>001960</td>
<td>Mr Mouhi Aldin Ghanem</td>
<td>Banias Refinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001961</td>
<td>Mr Amin Sakr</td>
<td>Banias Refinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001962</td>
<td>Mr Hussein Al-Jundi</td>
<td>Banias Refinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001963</td>
<td>Mr Akram Ahmad</td>
<td>Youth Union</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Certificates Nos. 001949, 001950, 001957 and 001958 were not delivered due to irregular attendance of the respective participants.
ANNEX 2

PROGRAMME

Day 1  Saturday 7th July 2001

0830 – 0900  Registration
0900 – 0930  Opening Ceremony by the vice-minister for the Ministry of state for Environmental Affairs    His Excellency    Fadllalah NaserAldin  
              : Introduction to the training course.      REMPEC
0930 – 1015  Origins/sources of marine pollution  D. Domovic
1015 – 1030  Coffee Break
1030 – 1115  Types and properties of oils    C James
1115 – 1220  Video: "The Oil Spill"  
1135 – 1220  Fate and behaviour of oil. Impact of oil  C James
1220 – 1300  Coffee Break
1300 – 1345  Introduction to accidental oil pollution response  D. Domovic
1345 – 1430  Contingency Planning  C James
1430 – 1500  Video: "The Sea Empress Incident"

Day 2  Sunday 8th July 2001

0900 – 0945  Containment of spilt oil  S Guy
0945 – 1030  Recovery of oil at sea  S Guy
1030 – 1050  Video: "Containment and Recovery"
1050 – 1115  Coffee Break
1115 – 1200  Use of Dispersants  C James
1200 – 1220  Video: "The use of Dispersants"
1220 – 1300  Coffee Break
1300 – 1345  The use of other products and techniques  C James
1345 – 1430  Shoreline protection and clean-up techniques  D. Domovic
1430 – 1500  Video: "Shoreline Clean-up"

Day 3  Monday 9th July 2001

0900 – 0945  Storage, transportation and disposal of oily waste  S Guy
0945 – 1015  Communications and Reporting  D. Domovic
1015 – 1100  Public Relations and the Media  C James
1100 – 1115  Coffee Break
1115 – 1200  Compensation for Oil Pollution damage  C James
1200 – 1220  Record keeping for compensation claims  D. Domovic
1220 – 1300  Coffee Break
1300 – 1330  Deactivation of Response  D Domovic
1330 – 1400  Video: "Erika – The Black Tide"
1400 – 1430  Status of the National System for preparedness  Ali Dayoub  
              and response to marine spills of oil and other harmful substances
1430 – 1500  Introduction to the table-top exercise  C James/S Guy  
              D Domovic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900 – 1230</td>
<td>Table-top exercise</td>
<td>C James/S Guy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1230 – 1300</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td>D Domovic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 – 1400</td>
<td>Preparation of Groups’ presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400 – 1430</td>
<td>Exercise wash-up</td>
<td>REMPEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1430 – 1500</td>
<td>Closing of the course</td>
<td>Nat Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation of Certificates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 3

LIST OF LECTURERS

Mr Darko Domovic
Technical Expert

Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
Manoel Island
Gzira GZR 03
Malta

Mr Colin James
Head of Training

Mr Stephen Guy
Training Co-ordinator

Briggs Marine Environmental Services Ltd (BMES)
Leading Light Building
142 Sinclair Road
Torry
Aberdeen AB11 9PR
United Kingdom

Mr Moulham Hajjar, Technical Assistant at REMPEC acted as the Liaison Officer and course co-ordinator
ANNEX 4

LIST OF DOCUMENTS:

Contents of Trainees Course Manuals

- Origins/ sources of Marine Pollution
- Accidental Oil Pollution Response
- Shoreline Protection and Clean-up
- Communications
- Record keeping
- Origins of Oil
- Contingency Planning
- Spill Evaluation
- Legal Considerations
- Safety at an Oil Spill
- Dispersant Use
- Booming Principles
- Recovery Techniques
- Sorbent Materials
- Waste Considerations
- Dealing with the Media
- The Nine Steps of Spill Management
ANNEX 5

Copy of Course Certificate

Certificate Number IMO

This is to certify that

Has attended a course entitled

CONTROL AND FIGHT AGAINST MARINE POLLUTION FROM HYDROCARBONS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

With Modules to IMO Level 2

7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2001
At
Safita Cham Hotel, Safita

For and on behalf of
BRIGGS MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD

Colin D V James

Head of training

Accredited by
THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE
Mariners and Seamen’s Agency

ISO 9002

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ANNEX 6

ANALYSIS OF COURSE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the 20 completed questionnaires that were returned.

1. Were the course objectives clearly stated at the outset of the course?
   100% ………… Yes

2. In your opinion were these objectives met?
   100% ………… Yes

3. COURSE CONTENT

   Technical Detail.    Too Broad .. 5% About Right.. 75% Too Narrow 20%
   Volume of information Too Much .. 15% About Right.. 85% Too Little… 0 %
   Course Duration     Too Long .. 5 % About Right.. 65% Too Short 30%

4. COURSE MATERIAL/PRESENTATION

   Instructor/Presentation  5% Satisfactory. 40% Good. 55% Excellent
   Delegate Participation    15% Satisfactory 60% Good 25% Excellent
   Visual Aids              0% Satisfactory  40% Good 60% Excellent
   Supporting Notes         5% Unacceptable 5% Poor 5% Satisfactory
                              60% Good 25% Excellent
   Exercises/Examples       5% Poor 15% Satisfactory 35% Good
                              45% Excellent
   Overall Assessment       0% Satisfactory 55% Good 45% Excellent
5. **OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

What was the most relevant part of the course?

20% Theoretical and videos. 30% Desktop exercise. 50% Both

Were there any parts of the course totally irrelevant?

90% None 10% Some of the Theory

Have you a clear idea on how you will use the new skills/knowledge back in your workplace?

100% Yes

6. **COURSE CONTENT WHICH MIGHT BE IMPROVED AND HOW.**

Where comment was made, it was unanimous that improvement could be made by having practical exercises and seeing response equipment in operation.

7. **OTHER COMMENTS**

‘All correct’. ‘Thank you’.