

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN
FOR PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO
ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION**

**Beirut, Lebanon
10-12 April 2000**

R E P O R T

MAY 2000

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INTRODUCTION

1. Between 10 and 12 April 2000 REMPEC, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon, organized in Beirut, a three-day national Workshop for senior managers and Government administrators, representing various national authorities, services and organizations, as well as the oil and shipping industry, who had been designated to take part in the future national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in Lebanon.
2. The Workshop was organized as part of the ongoing REMPEC's activities aimed at assisting the competent Lebanese national authorities to develop the national system for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, as requested by the representative of Lebanon in the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, held in Malta in October 1998 (REMPEC/WG.16/14, paragraph 27).
3. The initial request to organize the Workshop on National Contingency Plan, as the first activity aimed at development of the national system, was made by the official REMPEC's Focal Point in October 1999, and it was further discussed during the meeting between the Director of REMPEC, the Ministry of Environment and the representatives of various other Lebanese national authorities, services, organizations and industry, held in Beirut on 13 December 1999.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

4. In December 1999 REMPEC and the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon, signed an Agreement with a view to defining the responsibilities and financial conditions for the organization of the Workshop.
5. The Ministry of Environment was responsible for the invitation of the participants. It was also responsible for making the necessary arrangements for the smooth running of the Workshop including *inter alia* the conference room, interpretation from English into Arabic and vice versa, necessary audio-visual equipment, coffee breaks and local transport.
6. REMPEC identified, selected and invited the external speakers in the Workshop, prepared the programme and provided written materials that were distributed to the participants. REMPEC covered all the costs of the organization of the Workshop in accordance with the above mentioned Agreement, as well as the travel expenses and DSA of its own staff.
7. The costs related to the participation of three foreign speakers who took part in the Workshop were fully covered by their respective organizations.
8. The Workshop was conducted in English and Arabic languages, and the simultaneous interpretation from English into Arabic and vice-versa was provided for its whole duration.
9. The venue of the Workshop was the Conference Room of the United Nations House in Beirut.
10. The Workshop was inaugurated on 10 April 2000 by H.E. Mr. Arthur NAZARIAN, the Minister of Environment. Dr. Berj HATJIAN, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, introduced the Workshop and its objectives. Mr. Roberto PATRUNO, Director, REMPEC addressed and welcomed the participants on behalf of IMO, UNEP and REMPEC.

11. A total number of 47 participants attended the Workshop, 40 of who were Lebanese. They represented the Ministries of Environment, Defense, Interior, Transport, Agriculture, Petroleum, other government agencies, oil, chemical and shipping industries, as well as research institutions and the scientific community. The participants came from the principal government departments, agencies and services designated to be included in the national preparedness and response system, as well as from the private sector. The list of participants is given in ANNEX I.

OBJECTIVES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

12. During the preliminary discussions with the competent national authorities of Lebanon it was agreed that the Workshop should focus on a common effort for the development of the national contingency plan for marine pollution accidents and on the process of setting up a comprehensive national system for dealing with such accidents. It was also defined that the participants in the Workshop should be the key people from all relevant national authorities, services and organizations, and from the oil and shipping industries, who were designated to play a role in the future national preparedness and response system. The intention was to create the atmosphere that would permit an open exchange of experiences and views in order to reach a consensus on the approach to developing the national system and on the preparation of the national contingency plan. The suggested duration of the Workshop was 2-3 working days,

13. The main objective of the Workshop was to launch the preparation of the National Contingency Plan and to bring together all potential participants in this process. An additional objective was to familiarize the participants with the basic concepts of accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, and in particular with the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of setting up an effective national pollution preparedness and response system. Within this context, a special emphasis was to be put on various topics related to the contingency planning process. Another important objective was to present the existing international regulations and regimes for responding to major pollution incidents, with an emphasis on co-operation at the regional as well as global levels.

14. In order to achieve these main goals REMPEC prepared, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the programme of the Workshop that included 14 presentations and a "round table" discussion.

15. The speakers from REMPEC and foreign speakers invited by REMPEC addressed the following issues: the regional framework for co-operation and mutual assistance, international mechanisms for co-operation and assistance, implications of accidental marine pollution and its effects, the role of national authorities in dealing with marine pollution emergencies and the importance of setting-up a national system for preparedness and response, contingency planning, the role of the shipping sector and related interests, the role of the oil industry, and the liability and compensation for pollution damage.

16. Lebanese speakers presented various issues related to the accidental marine pollution that were considered of national importance and that were relevant for the principal topic of the workshop. These included a historical background and the role of the Ministry of Environment, the role of the Ministry of Transport, the role of teledetection (remote sensing) in contingency planning, local hydrodynamic conditions, local meteorological conditions, available capabilities and needs in the field of operational matters. The speakers addressed these issues from the point of view of their respective administrations, services or organizations.

17. Although the original programme envisaged a full three days Workshop, the Lebanese authorities suggested that due to other commitments of the participants it would be more opportune to conclude the Workshop in two working days and to organize on the third day a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment with a view to clearly defining recommendations for future actions. This proposal was accepted and the final programme of the workshop is given in ANNEX II.

18. The Workshop was co-ordinated by Dr. Berj HATJIAN, General Director, Ministry of Environment, Mr. Roberto Patruno, Director, REMPEC and by Dr. Samih WEHBE, Expert in the Ministry of Environment and REMPEC's Focal Point.

19. A number of documents were distributed to the participants in the Workshop and these are listed in ANNEX III.

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

20. After the completion of presentations on 11 April 2000 a round table discussion was organized, in which the participants to the Workshop, national authorities involved in the preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution as well as the speakers in the Workshop took part. The round table discussion was co-ordinated by Dr. Hratch KOUYOUUMJIAN, Advisor, Ministry of Environment.

21. The Director of REMPEC outlined the main points to be taken into consideration while developing the national preparedness and response system. He suggested that particular attention should be paid to ratifying and adherence to relevant international Conventions and Protocols, identifying the most important stakeholders and resources within the country, the establishment of the national legal framework, the need for international co-operation, the need for co-operation between the public and private sector, the need for close interministerial collaboration, incentives for private sector, the need for training, and the need for setting up preventive measures and for better enforcement of regulations.

22. Various participants took part in the discussion that followed and informed the Workshop of initiatives already taken by their respective government departments, national services and by the shipping and oil industries. The participants in the discussion provided valuable information that could be utilized during the preparation of the National Contingency Plan, as well as in the setting up of the comprehensive national preparedness and response system.

23. The representative of the Ministry of Environment indicated that the project of a legal document covering the field of accidental marine pollution preparedness and response is being prepared.

24. The representative of the Ministry of Transport informed the Workshop of the intention of his Ministry to proceed with the **ratification of the 1992 Protocols to the CLC and Fund Conventions, as well as to consider the ratification of the OPRC 90 Convention and its Protocol**. He also outlined the present problems related to the Lebanese registered fleet and to the issue of reception facilities the cost of which were considered to be high.

25. Representatives of the shipping sector reported that one of the companies involved in the transportation of oil prepared an Emergency Plan that will be submitted to the National Committee, and that a study was prepared within a shipping association that will also be submitted to the same Committee.

26. The representative of the Navy indicated that the Navy was ready to implement all Government decisions in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution. He emphasized that the Navy has the manpower available, but that there was need for spill response equipment and for vessels for handling such equipment.

27. The representatives of oil and chemical industries informed the Workshop of their difficult financial position, emphasizing that compliance with the regulations of the Ministry of Environment was already a burden for the industry. They were of the opinion that a solution could be found with the help of the Ministry of Petroleum.

28. The representative of the Ministry of Petroleum indicated that his Ministry would consider the current problems faced by the industry and seek a satisfactory solution.

29. The representative of MOIG indicated that the European oil industry might be in the position to assist in the field of training and by providing expertise and equipment in case of emergency. He also indicated that a visit to FOST oil spill response stockpile and base in southern France might be organized in the future.

30. The Co-ordinator invited all those present to submit to the Ministry of Environment their written suggestions and statements, as well as the lists of equipment that was presently available in the country.

31. The Director of REMPEC emphasized that it was essential to identify the national authority that will lead the process of the preparation of the National Contingency Plan. He also recommended to take into consideration all the data and resources already available in the country, that should be pooled together before quantifying the need for additional equipment within the NCP. The opportunity to ratify the relevant international conventions and to consider the international co-operation in the region was also stressed.

32. At the end of the round table discussion the Co-ordinator summarized the main points that resulted from the fruitful exchange of views and suggested that these main points be formulated as the recommendations of the Workshop in the meeting between the representatives of REMPEC, experts who participated in the Workshop as speakers and the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, that was scheduled for the next day.

33. Mr. R. PATRUNO, Director, REMPEC thanked all those present for their active and constructive contribution to the Workshop and indicated that the Centre intends to continue supporting the initiatives already taken at the national level with a view to increasing the capacities of the country to deal with marine pollution accidents, and in particular in the development of the National Contingency Plan.

34. Dr. Samih WEHBE thanked all participants and in particular the members of the National Contingency Plan Committee for their contribution to the success of the Workshop. He also thanked REMPEC for its continuous support to the development of the Lebanese national system for preparedness and response, and to all speakers in the Workshop. On behalf of the host country and the Ministry of Environment he declared the Workshop closed on 11 April 2000 at 14.00.

THE MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

35. In accordance with the proposal put forward by the competent national authorities of Lebanon the Meeting was held on Wednesday, 12 April 2000 at the premises of the Ministry of Environment, with a view to finalizing the recommendations of the Workshop and to discussing the future activities that need to be carried out for the preparation of the National Contingency Plan.

36. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment (Dr. S. Wehbe, Dr. H. Kouyoumjian, Ms. S. Sairawan), REMPEC and the international organizations that took part in the Workshop (IOPC Funds, ITOPF and MOIG). The recommendations have been formulated during the Meeting in conformity with the key items identified during the round table discussion and using notes taken by the Co-ordinator of the round table discussion.

37. It was agreed that the Ministry of Environment shall finalize the text of the Recommendations immediately after the Workshop and send a copy of the final version to REMPEC. The final version of the Recommendations of the Workshop, prepared by the Ministry of Environment, is reproduced in ANNEX IV to the present Report.

38. At the end of the Meeting the representative of the Ministry of Environment expressed the appreciation of his Ministry for the assistance offered to Lebanese authorities by REMPEC. On behalf of REMPEC Mr. R. Patruno, Director, thanked the Ministry for the very good organization of the Workshop and expressed the determination of REMPEC to continue assisting Lebanon in its efforts to set up an efficient national system for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
1. H.E. Mr. Arthur Nazarian	MOE, the Minister
2. Mr. Roberto Patruno	REMPEC, Director
3. Mr. Darko Domovic	REMPEC, Technical Expert
4. Mr. André Lamy	MOIG
5. Mr. Joe Nichols	IOPC Funds, Head of Claims Dept.
6. Mr. Richard Johnson	ITOPF, Senior Technical Advisor
7. Mr. Xavier Kremer	CEDRE
8. Ms. Anne Laure Milhe	MOERS Environment
9. Dr. Berj Hatjian	MOE Director General
10. Colonel Yousef Khdieg	Representative of the Head of Lebanese Army
11. Major Josef El Helu	Representative of the Ministry of Interior
12. Dr. Adel Shewayry	General Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture
13. Mr. Samih El Rayes	General Directorate of Ministry of Petroleum
14. Colonel George Maalouf	Head of Marine Force
15. Mr. Wisam Eid	MOE H.E. Advisor
16. Mr. Abdou Bajany	Head of METEO Department
17. Dr. Mohamed Khawly	Director of Remote Sensing Centre
18. Capt. Hassan Shaaban	Representative of Ministry of Transport
19. Mr. Eli Zakhur	Head of Marine Navigation
20. Mr. Gelber Aswad	Flouty Trad. Co. (Chem. Co.)
21. Mr. Anwar Gizzawy	Head of Ship Owners Organization
22. Mr. Jean Beiruty	Head of Touristic and Marine Organization
23. Mr. Melhem Hagg	Secretary of Touristic and Marine Organization
24. Mr. Hani Ostra	Tech. Adv. Of Touristic and Marine Organization
25. Mr. Mohamed Nahle	Ministry of Transport
26. Mr. Samih Hammoud	Ministry of Petroleum
27. Major Nazih Jobeily	Ministry of Defense
28. Mr. Amine Sherfan	Civil Defense
29. Mr. George Abuo Muca	Civil Defense
30. Mr. Mostafa El Moalem	General Directorate of Customs
31. Dr. Najad Kabbara	National Centre for Remote Sensing
32. Dr. Hratch Kouyoumjian	MAP Office at MOE
33. Dr. Maamum Nuayed	National Centre for Marine Sciences
34. Mr. Eli Najar	National Centre for Marine Sciences
35. Dr. Shadi Mohanna	Director of Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
36. Mr. Eli Eid	Oil Tanker Private comp.
37. Mr. Sami Rihana	Petroleum Survey Comp.
38. Mr. Ibrahim Zuok	Globil Petromarine Com.
39. Mr. Abd Alhamid Mikaty	Conatro Co.
40. Dr. Milad Jarjuoi	Prof. at Lebanese University
41. Mr. Said Dauod	Eng. At METEO
42. Dr. Naji Kodeih	Expert at MOE
43. Ms. Alia Kaskas	Expert at MOE
44. Mr. Kamel Doumit	NGO
45. Mr. Antoine Goraeb	Head of Department, MOE
46. Mr. Alexandre Ananof	Navy Group Com.
47. Dr. Samih Wehbe	REMPEC Focal Point at MOE

ANNEX II

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION

DAY 1	MONDAY, 10 APRIL 2000	
09.00 - 09.30	Registration of participants	
09.30 - 10.00	Opening ceremony and the inauguration of the Workshop	National authorities REMPEC
10.00 - 10.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.30 - 11.15	The role of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (REMPEC) in the Mediterranean Region	Mr. R. Patruno, REMPEC
11.15 - 11.30	International mechanisms for co-operation and assistance (OPRC Convention, the role of IMO)	Mr. R. Patruno, REMPEC
11.30 - 12.00	Implications of accidental marine pollution and its effects	Mr. R. Johnson, ITOPF
12.00 - 12.30	The role of national authorities in dealing with marine pollution emergencies and the importance of setting up a national system for preparedness and response	Mr. D. Domovic, REMPEC
12.30 - 13.15	Contingency planning process	Mr. D. Domovic, REMPEC
13.15 - 13.45	The role of the shipping sector and shipping related interests	Mr. R. Johnson, ITOPF
13.45 - 14.15	The role of the oil industry	Mr. A. Lamy, MOIG
14.15 - 15.00	International mechanisms for liability and compensation for pollution damage	Mr. J. Nichols, IOPCF

DAY 2	TUESDAY, 11 APRIL 2000	
09.30 - 10.30	The local scenario and stakeholders Historical background and the role of the Ministry of Environment The role of the Ministry of Transport The role of teledetection in contingency planning An overview of local hydrodynamic characteristics An overview of the local meteorological conditions Available capabilities and needs in field operational matters	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Transport National Council for Scientific Research National Council for Scientific Research Meteo Ministry of Defence
10.30 - 11.30	Round table discussion on the preparation of a national contingency plan (and related local contingency plans)	All participants
11.30 - 12.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
12.00 - 13.30	Adoption of recommendations and tentative timetable for the preparation of the national contingency plan	All participants
13.30 - 14.00	Closure of the Workshop	National authorities REMPEC
DAY 3	WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2000	
10.00 - 13.00	Meeting at the Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Environment REMPEC IOPC Funds, ITOPF, MOIG
REMPEC	IMO/UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea , Manoel Island, Malta	
IOPCF	International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds , London, U.K.	
ITOPF	International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. , London, U.K.	
MOIG	Mediterranean Oil Industry Group for Oil Spill Response , c/o International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), London, U.K.	

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. REMPEC: The Role of the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (REMPEC) in the Mediterranean Region;
International Mechanisms for Co-operation and Assistance;
Development of a National System for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution.
2. IMO: Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II, Contingency Planning.
3. IMO: International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) 1990.
4. ITOPF: Technical Information Paper No. 9, Contingency Planning for oil spills.
5. ITOPF: Technical Information Paper No. 10, Effects on marine oil spills.
6. ITOPF: Technical Information Paper No. 11, Fate of marine oil spills.
7. ITOPF: Technical Information Paper No. 12, Action oil-spill.
8. IPIECA: Report Series, Volume 2: A Guide to Contingency Planning for Oil Spills on Water.
9. IOPC Fund 92: Claims Manual.
10. IOPC Funds: Mr. Joe Nichols: Recent Developments within the Framework of the International Conventions on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage.

ANNEX IV

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Adherence to International Conventions and Protocols in particular Compensation Fund 1992, CLC 1992 and OPRC 1990. In the current situation, where the two refineries are not operational, adherence to these will not cost any levies on the local authorities.
2. The necessity for a Contingency Plan and as a first step it is recommended to formalize the mandate given to the Ministry of Environment to take the necessary action in offer to prepare the contingency plan and the official national body for its supervision, implementation and follow-up.
3. The creation of conditions for a more efficient and effective collaboration for the participation of the private sector in this context, and generally speaking in environmental protection, including economical instruments.
4. The necessity to put in place an efficient mechanism for co-ordination and reporting within the mainline ministries whose responsibilities in this context should be clearly defined.
5. The need to utilize the available legal instruments and the mechanism of the Mediterranean Action Plan for international co-operation, and to identify possible sources of international assistance including funding.
6. To define the needs and to identify all available resources within Lebanon in order to quantify and qualify the needs for International assistance particularly with the technical support of REMPEC.
7. The preparation of a comprehensive training program for different levels (including drills and exercises), to be implemented with the technical assistance of REMPEC.
8. Better enforcement and when needed amendment of existing legislation related to the prevention of marine pollution (sea borne and land based) by the stakeholders.
9. To encourage all relevant national authorities to take an active part in the process of revision and amendment of the Emergency Protocol of the Mediterranean Action Plan.