



Concept Note for 3rd African Ports Environment & Sustainability Conference 2020

Theme: “African Ports & the Sustainable Development Nexus: Challenges & Opportunities”

Introduction

Ports Management Association for West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) in collaboration with Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAF), a transnational-oriented organisation with interest in the environmental sustainability of African ports are organising the 3rd African Ports Environment & Sustainability Conference to be hosted by the Port Authority of Pointe Noire (PAPN) on 12-14 February 2020 in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo.

Background

Most Sub-Saharan Africa ports have since the past decade been undergoing institutional restructuring to improve efficiency and contribute to socio-economic growth. Some of the ports are already showing significant growth with increasing vessel and cargo traffic. The development is however occurring at a time when sustainability has become the guiding principle for long-term global development. African ports, like all other ports globally, are therefore expected to balance their economic growth with social and environmental considerations and impacts. They are thus having to look beyond their commercial and profitability scope and include environmental and social scopes. Ignoring this can erode economic gains made from port growth, with associated potential of denying future generations the possibility of meeting their needs and aspirations.

Need for Environmental Sustainability Action

Improving port environment and sustainability can be challenging. The issues requiring attention range from climate vulnerability to emissions and discharges that pollute air, water, and land; waste reception facilities; dredging and disposal of dredged material; traffic congestion; among others, with negative implications for port infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystems, and public health. These challenges are mostly transboundary in nature and common for African ports. They are such that no single port or country can solve. They require a coordinated approach to tackle. Yet, there is hardly any recourse to environmental & sustainability linkages among African ports. This leaves African ports and their entire continent vulnerable with environmental and sustainability inefficiencies. It needs to change. But How?

Collaboration on Sustainable African Ports Initiative (SAPI)

Cooperation is needed to tackle port sustainability. Action for environmental sustainability therefore presents itself as a driver for change for African ports. It presents the opportunity for African ports to work together towards a common path of sustainability while enhancing their competitiveness. To promote this working together, the 3rd African Ports Environment & Sustainability Conference seeks to bring African ports together with international ports and actors to forge collaborative arrangements

for common sustainable port solutions under a 'Sustainable African Ports Initiative' (SAPI). The conference will serve as an opportunity to bridge geographic and institutional differences between African ports, stimulate cross-border cooperation within a regional Africa context, and initiate international partnerships for common solutions pursuant to the sustainable development of African ports.

African Ports Environment & Sustainability Conference 2020

The 2020 African Ports & Environment Conference will be a three-day event hosted by Port Authority for Pointe Noire in the Republic of Congo (Central Africa). It will be the third, after the first and second held in Tema (Western Africa) and Mombasa (Eastern Africa) respectively in 2010.

Conference Agenda & Objectives

- Deliberate interactively on environment & sustainability challenges facing African ports
- Identify opportunities that can drive sustainability change in African ports
- Discuss solutions that can be leveraged on through cooperation and partnerships
- Define pragmatic mechanisms and pathways for deploying and adapting concrete action for the sustainable development of African ports

Expected Participants

- Port authorities (port managers, environmental managers, harbour masters, port planners, marketing managers, communication managers & engineers etc.)
- Maritime Administrations
- Environmental Protection Agencies
- Shippers' Associations & Councils
- Shipping Lines
- International organisations (UNEP, IMO etc.)
- Terminal Operators
- Logistics Companies
- Freight Forwarders
- Environment & Sustainability NGOs/Civil Society Organisations
- Ports & Maritime Consultants
- Ports & Maritime Universities & Research Institutes

Participation Fee & Registration

- Euros 600. Participants are required to register online at www.penaf.org
- Payment should be done by international wire transfer to:

Port Management Association for West and Central Africa (PMAWCA)
ECOBANK Nigeria
Account Number: 955700000
Swift code: ECOCNGLA
IBAN: DE19500700100955700000

- Registration and payment entitles participants to Coffee/Tea breaks, Lunch (everyday) to be served at the conference venue, one evening cocktail, a Conference dinner.

Contact Persons

Jean Marie Koffi

Secretary General, Port Management Association for West and Central Africa (PMAWCA)

koffijeanmarie@yahoo.fr

Dr. Harry Barnes-Dabban

Executive Coordinator, Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAF)

hbarnesdabban@penaf.org

Grace Leslie Bhalat

Sustainability Development Manager, Port Authority of Pointe Noire (PAPN)

gl.bhalat@papn-cg.org