

CONCEPT NOTE
AFRICAN PORTS INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDY VISIT
TO DENMARK,
23 - 27 OCTOBER 2023

Theme: 'Innovating Actionable Green Solutions Towards Climate Neutral Ports'

Profile of the Study Visit:

The enormity of the climate emergency challenge leaves the world at the risk of disastrous consequences if it is not tackled. The UNFCCC and related processes – Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement and recently, Glasgow Climate Pact – are seeking to contribute to the prevention of that potential risk. However a 'business as usual' approach, in which behaviour goes on as it has been in the past, will lead to little or no effort in limiting carbon emissions and thus missing out on needed changes for altering the trajectory high reliance on fossil fuels. The ports and maritime sector cannot be excluded in this regard. The sector actually recognise its responsibility to deliver on efforts towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and have several initiatives including decarbonising cargo-handling facilities, renewable shore power-to-ships solutions, sustainable low-carbon fuels, and greening supply chains. Advancing and accelerating these initiatives to achieve concrete progress and desired net impact however require collaborative partnerships through knowledge sharing and developing joint projects underpinned with implementation commitment to sustained climate action rather than individual actions.

In that way, continuous information exchange, knowledge sharing, and exposure to international best practice becomes crucial for building the needed skills set for adapting and innovating actionable climate solutions. pursuing this among multiple transnational actors in a bottom-up and horizontal approach offers the potential for contributing effectively and efficiently to the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly, Goal 13 on Climate Action.

The objective of the 5th African Ports International Environmental and Social Sustainability Study Visit is therefore to offer participants the opportunity to have first-hand experience and acquaintance with Danish practice and approach to climate action in its ports. It is also afford participants the opportunity to learn about institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement in port climate policy making, governance and research. In addition, participants will be taken through measures and incentives for reducing carbon footprint, use of alternative greener energy, and deployment of digitalisation for climate action in ports.

Overall, the visit will seek to:

- Have a learning from industry experts and researchers
- Establish international collaborative partnership between Danish and African ports on climate action information and knowledge exchange aimed at strengthening capacity for sustained actionable solutions for climate neutral ports

The programme will be hosted in the Ports of Aarhus and Aalborg in Denmark.

Participant Expectation:

Participants will be expected to make brief presentations (preferably poster presentations) on voluntary climate plans, actions and improvements being undertaken in their respective ports.

Participants would also be expected to actively engage in sharing their knowledge, experiences and practices during presentations and working sessions, which will all be interactive.

Participants would further be expected to use knowledge gained from the study visit to develop an action plan for adaption and implementation in their home ports on return.

Expected Outcomes:

At the end of the Visit, participants will:

- Gain an adequate understanding of climate goals ports nexus;
- Be able to reflect on and review climate challenges and opportunities for their respective ports, with a voluntary commitment to take pragmatic action for improvement;
- Be enabled to initiate networking and cooperative approaches for climate knowledge, information sharing and best practice exchange;

Expected Output:

1. An action plan for overcoming common constraints and enhancing climate neutral ports.

Activities:

- Plenary presentations and discussions;
- Site visits (Aarhus Port and Aalborg Port);
- Working sessions and discussions on adapting knowledge gained in a pragmatic approach

Venue: Port of Aarhus and Port of Aalborg, Denmark

Participation Fee & Registration:

- Register online by 21st August 2023 at the link below
<https://bit.ly/45eqxi9>
- Euros 850.00 payable by 30th August 2023 via international transfer to:

Account Name: Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAf)

Bank: ABN Amro

Address: Coolsingel 93, 3012 AE, Rotterdam
IBAN: NL11 ABNA 0828033587
Swift Code: ABNANL2A

Visa Acquisition/Hotel Booking:

Registered participants will be issued with invitation letters to process their visas. They will subsequently be issued with link to hotels arranged for them to do direct booking. Hotels have been arranged at a discount price.

Participants will be responsible for their international flight and local travel, accommodation and meals, visa and all incidental expenses for the trip.

Coffee in between meeting sessions and lunch will be provided.

Travel between Aarhus and Aalborg will be covered****

Certificate of Participation will be issued at the end of the Study Visit.