

Concept Note

# Training Workshop on MARPOL/Port Reception Facilities

for

## Port Reception Facility Operators in West & Central Africa Ports

11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Tema, Ghana

Organised by



In Collaboration With



**Theme:**

Working Together on Environmentally Sound Management of Ship  
Wastes: Challenges and Opportunities

**Background:**

Most African ports have over the past decade been restructuring to improve efficiency and attract more trade. Ship calls have thus increased significantly with gains for economic growth through increasing international trade. Increasing shipping, however, comes along with environmental risks from ship wastes, some of which are hazardous with potential severe impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and public health, if not handled properly. The provision of adequate onshore Port Reception Facilities (PRFs) remain the most effective means for preventing or reducing the potential impact of ship wastes on the marine environment as regulated under International Maritime Organisation's multilateral environmental regime (MARPOL 73/78), as well as on the terrestrial environment. Port reception facilities are however hardly available in most African ports. Where they do exist, they are inadequate with poor collection and management processes. Most ports have the necessary national regulations in place, but gaps remain due to lack of necessary infrastructure and mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and enforcement. The gaps are rooted in inadequate understanding of the legal requirements, ineffective response to operational challenges in putting the regulations into practice, inefficient downstream management of wastes discharged, lack of coordination among institutions as well as facility operators, inability to maintain up-to-date information and communication, with the attendant overall non-integration into wider local, national and regional waste management plans and actions. Approaches therefore remain far from harmonised.

It is therefore not difficult to understand the occurrence of some major toxic waste dumping incidents in Africa that have attracted international attention, including the 1987 Koko incidence in Nigeria, and the 2006 Probo Koala case in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. With these cases of dumping, the potential for illegal discharge of ship wastes in Africa's seas and oceans could be safely assumed. If not corrected, the environmental risks could erode economic gains made by the ports from increased international trade through increasing shipping.

Continuous attention is therefore imperative for operators of port reception facilities and associated port authority officials to receive continuous training to update their knowledge on new developments and best practices relevant for acquiring the appropriate skills set while building adequate capacity for their efficient performance and operations.

It is in this regard that Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAf) is, in collaboration with the Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) and Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, seeking to organise a three-day training workshop in Tema, Ghana, between 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, for operators of port reception facilities and associated port authority officials.

**Objectives:**

- Support the human capital development of operators of port reception facilities within West and Central Africa to improve their operations and services.
- Have the operators of port reception facilities within West and Central Africa initiate the formation of a regional umbrella association to define the rules and norms for their operation and functioning.

**Follow-Up International Training Workshop:**

The Tema training workshop will be followed up with an International Joint MARPOL Inspection Training Workshop in The Netherlands, in collaboration with The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) of The Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. The follow-up workshop, which will be restricted to only participants of this March workshop in Tema, Ghana, is intended to offer first-hand exposure to MARPOL/PRF implementation in practice within an European context for African ports. It is intended to take place in June 2024 in Rotterdam. The exact dates will be communicated during the Tema training workshop.

**Expected Output:**

Participants will be able to gain an adequate understanding of MARPOL and PRF regulatory framework and effective implementation with insight into contemporary trends for compliance, enforcement, and efficient operationalisation. They will also be able to develop and initiate and own agency and architecture to promote and institutionalise their operation and functioning, with a complementary role and advantage of supporting the environmental and social sustainability development of their relevant port authorities.

**Participant Expectation:**

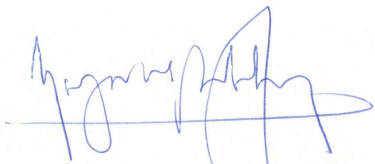
Presentations and workshop session will be interactive. Participants will therefore be expected to actively engage in sharing their experiences, practices, challenges, and opportunities. They will be expected to collect and put together information on their particular challenges, opportunities and management approaches. Participants will at the end of the Workshop be expected to produce a common workable action plan for establishing an association to cooperatively work together in adapting and implementing knowledge gained during the three days.

**Resource Persons:**

Competent practitioners and academics with requisite exposure, practical experience, repute and capacity in the Workshop's theme and objectives.

**Venue:** Ghana Ports & Harbours Authority (GPHA) Headquarters, Tema, Ghana.

Yours faithfully,

**PORTS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK-AFRICA (PENAF)**

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