



**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  
7<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> 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**



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## **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 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

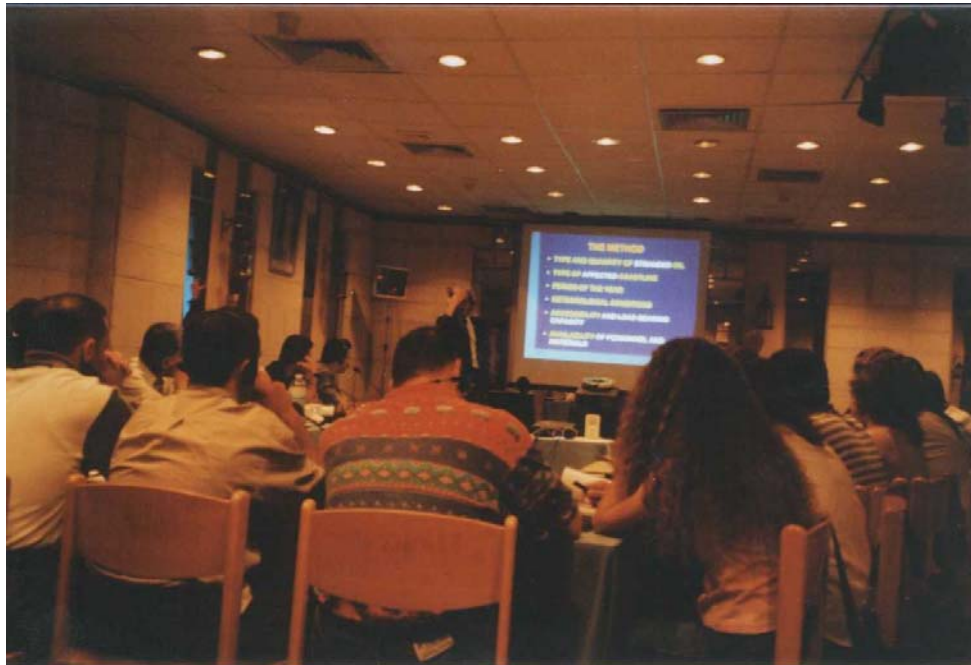
The national training course was based on the IMO OPRC 2 model training course, with an extended desktop exercise and videos shown in the absence of being able to carry out practical exercises, due to there being no equipment in country. It was aimed at engineers and environmentalists who could be called 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 co-operation 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 1LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

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

**ANNEX 2****PROGRAMME****Day 1 Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1030 – 1115	Types and properties of oils	C James
1115 – 1135	Video: "The Oil Spill"	
1135 – 1220	Fate and behaviour of oil. Impact of oil	C James
1220 – 1300	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2001**

0900 – 0945	Containment of spilled oil	S Guy
0945 – 1030	Recovery of oil at sea	S Guy
1030 – 1050	Video: "Containment and Recovery"	
1050 – 1115	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1115 – 1200	Use of Dispersants	C James
1200 – 1220	Video: "The use of Dispersants"	
1220 – 1300	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
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 9<sup>th</sup> 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	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1115 – 1200	Compensation for Oil Pollution damage	C James
1200 – 1220	Record keeping for compensation claims	D. Domovic
1220 – 1300	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1300 – 1330	Deactivation of Response	D Domovic
1330 – 1400	Video: "Erika – The Black Tide"	
1400 – 1430	Status of the National System for preparedness and response to marine spills of oil and other harmful substances	Ali Dayoub
1430 – 1500	Introduction to the table-top exercise	C James/S Guy D Domovic

DAY 4                      Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2001

0900 – 1230	Table-top exercise	C James/S Guy D Domovic
1230 – 1300	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1300 – 1400	Preparation of Groups' presentations	
1400 – 1430	Exercise wash-up	
1430 – 1500	Closing of the course Presentation of Certificates	REMPEC Nat Authority

**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

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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



**Briggs**  
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental  
Agency/BOSCA  
Level 3  
Accreditation



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

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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 60% Good	5% Poor 25% Excellent	5% Satisfactory
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'.