IORA TRAINING PROGRAMME ON
"ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE PORT SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN REGION FOR IMPROVED MARITIME CONNECTIVITY"
UNION OF COMOROS
12 - 14 JULY 2017

IORA UPDATE

The Indian Ocean retains huge economic significance, especially through the shipping industry and holds great importance in terms of trade and transport of goods. Half of the world's container ships, one third of the bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the world's oil shipments converge in the region. Some IORA Member States have the most significant trading/shipping activity profiles and ports in these countries constitute the primary nodes in the Indian Ocean region, and in many ways determine the pattern of major oceanic shipping links within the Indian Ocean.

However, in maritime ports and related activities, there is continuous emergence of environmental issues that are becoming a competitive factor. Apart from ports being impacted by environmental consequences of exploitation of marine resources, port related changes impacts, such as dredging of channels or modification of tides and currents can ultimately have far reaching effects on livelihoods from fisheries or tourism. Moreover, port infrastructure and maritime logistics are expected to be negatively by changes in various factors such as coastal ecologies and currents, high temperatures, sea level rise, floods, inundations, and extreme weather events. Therefore, it is imperative that attention should be geared towards protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable development of this important sector.

In addition, maritime connectivity is one of the main challenges that require the attention of Member States and has been recognized as an important factor determining trade costs, its impact on export, mainly bilateral export, has received little theoretical and empirical attention, mostly as a result of lack of data. With the global increase in trade and cargo volumes, ports worldwide are exploring new technologies to help manage resources in a more sustainable and cost-effective manner, for example through digitalization.

In this regard, IORA will be hosting the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Sustainable Development Program (ISDP) Training Programme on "Enhancing sustainable port services and management in the Indian Ocean region for improved maritime connectivity", on 12 - 14 July 2017 in Mutsamudu Anjouan, Comoros. The training programme would include deliverables from Experts from Member States and Dialogue Partners and the modules of the training programme would focus on several topics, including inter alia: economic and financial port management; port strategic planning and management; commercial management of the port; sustainable port management tools; and safe work practices, security and environmental protection for sustainable port management.

In line with the above, a field visit to Comoros Port to show casing port services and management in Comoros is also included. The training programme will attempt to address several issues, as well as enable Member States to share knowledge and best practices related to sustainable port services and management, as well as shipping and port logistics for improved maritime connectivity in the Indian Ocean Rim region.