



IGCC NEWSLETTER



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NEWS OF THE INTERIM GUINEA CURRENT COMMISSION

INTERIM GUINEA CURRENT COMMISSION (IGCC) PRESENTS AT THE FIRST GHANA SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Regional Project Coordinator of the Interim Guinea Current Commission and Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem and Executive Secretary, Dr. Stephen Maxwell Donkor has called for scientists and professionals in the field of Science and Technology to use modern technologies to improve water management systems in Ghana.



Dr. Stephen Maxwell Donkor addressing participants at the 1st Ghana Science Congress.

With decades of experience on African Water Issues, Dr. Donkor made this call at Ghana's first Science Congress held in Accra by the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

The congress, the first of its kind, is designed to create a platform to take stock of the

country's scientific development and usage to create the capacity for accelerated socio-economic transformation.

The four day congress and exhibition was under the theme 'Water, Sanitation and Environment: Securing Our Future through Science'. It was attended by scientists, scholars, professionals, institutions, exhibitors, students and the general public.

Dr. Donkor, who also chaired the Session on Water, said the use of modern Satellite Communications Technologies will support the country's efforts in water management. He further made some suggestions as to how Ghana and the entire African continent can improve and protect her water

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Tel: +233-302-781225

Fax: +233 - 302-781226

Email: gclme@gclme.org PMB CT 324, Accra, Ghana





IGCC/GCLME Staff interacting with a participant at the Ghana Science Congress.

resources as well as the health of its waters to meet the Goals of the African Water Vision 2025 which has been endorsed by the AU Heads of State Summit.

The Interim Guinea Current Commission, as part of its public awareness campaign strategy, exhibited at the congress grounds giving out GCLME books whilst raising public awareness on the impacts of marine environmental pollution in our coastal areas to participants who visited the GCLME stand.

NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN LME CAUCUS

The first edition of the African LME caucus newsletter has been issued at the second African LME caucus meeting held in Paris, France in July 2011.

The purpose of the newsletter is to project and highlight African Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) institutions' and project goals and activities that take place in the various LME regions and also to share information about the caucus with other LMEs of the world.

This second meeting followed the first African LME caucus inaugural meeting held in Accra, Ghana in May, 2011 as a side event of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project / Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) 8th Steering Committee Meeting. The Caucus aims at encouraging collaboration and synergies between African LMEs by discussing issues of common concern, sharing experiences and developing strategies to work together.

At the second meeting of the African LME caucus, a number of conclusions were reached. These are;

- The Caucus would foster closer cooperation between African LMEs;
- The research needs of each LME would be documented so as to secure vessel capacity for African LMEs for the next three years;

- The caucus would comprehensively document the value that the research ship *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* has provided to African LMEs over the past 30 years;



REGIONAL SEABOARD TRAINING WORKSHOP

- The caucus should emphasize the importance of climate change research for the management of natural resources;
- The caucus noted the importance of documenting the value of LME goods and services for national, regional and global economies;
- The Caucus must ensure that LMEs and particularly African LMEs play a prominent role in the upcoming Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP 17) to be held in Durban, South Africa in December 2011.

The “LME News” newsletter features news from the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MLME), Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME), Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME), Agulhas and Somalia Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) projects.

<http://iwlearn.net/news/african-lme-news>

As part of one of its major goals in reducing coastal pollution in the GCLME region, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem / Interim Guinea Current Commission (GCLME/IGCC) has trained, for the second



Participants undergoing laboratory analysis on plankton and benthic organisms

time, Scientists in the region on Coastal Water Quality Monitoring procedures to protect the region's Waters from pollution and degradation.

For five days, scientists and officers involved in water quality assessment and analysis from all the 16 member countries collected water and sediment samples in the field (Lagos Lagoon) and went through Laboratory Analyses. The training was held at the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research

(NIOMR), at Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

This training was aimed at harmonizing all methodologies, both field sampling techniques and laboratory analysis methodologies in the GCLME region. Ultimately, the goal is to help build the capacity of the Guinea Current Commission countries to work jointly to define and address their transboundary priority environmental issues within the framework of

their existing responsibilities and commitments under the normative framework of the Abidjan Convention and its Protocols.

Speaking on behalf of the Regional Project Coordinator / Executive Secretary of the Interim Guinea Current Commission, Dr. Jacques Abe; the Environmental Scientist stressed the importance of water

quality in the Guinea Current region. He noted that pollution from industries, agriculture, oil exploration among others have greatly degraded water quality in the region as a result of land and marine based activities

At the end of the exercise, participants were encouraged to use their newly acquired knowledge to achieve their country's target in water quality monitoring.



In the laboratory of Microbiology, participants are undergoing the process of identification of Coliforms in water samples.

LOME WORKSHOPS ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT (BWM) CONVENTION

In IGCC/GCLME's quest to combat the depletion of marine resources and coastal area degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem region, a two day training workshop has been organized in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention for Flag and Port State Control officers involved in Flag and Port State Control inspections.

Ballast Water is 'sea water' pumped in to vessels to stabilize

them at sea. This water (i.e. ballast water), is later poured out into the sea when vessels dock in harbours.

While this practice helps in the efficient and safe running of vessels for modern shipping operations, it also poses serious ecological, economic and health problems to marine resources due to the multitude of some invasive marine species like bacteria, microbes, small invertebrates, eggs, cysts and larvae of various species carried in ships' ballast water which later multiply into pest and destroy these natural resources in the environment they are introduced into.



Participants at the regional training workshop on compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) of the ballast water management (BWM) convention



Resource Persons addressing participants at the Third Regional Task Force Meeting

The training aimed at providing practical knowledge on Port and Flag State Control procedures



Participants receiving certificates at the end of the three day CME/RTF workshop.

required under the provisions of the BWM Convention.

In enforcing ballast water management requirements, participants were trained in flag and port state control inspection of national and foreign ships; how to review ballast water certificates and record books,

boarding selected ships to review documents and inspect equipment, and when necessary using sanctioning powers to quarantine or fine vessels for failure to meet their legal obligations.

The devastating impacts of invasive species from ballast water and sediments on marine resources

and coastal habitat is a major reason for this regional training on Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement of BWM convention. This will enhance collective regional action on ways of protecting the GCLME marine resources from depletion. It will also equip officers with the latest and requisite information about other maritime conventions which they can apply in their individual countries to safeguard their marine environment.

The training workshop also provided participants the opportunity to build capacity in the Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) region to manage the introduction of alien species through ships ballast waters.

The two day BWM workshop was followed by a one day Third Regional Task Force (RTF) Meeting on the ratification and implementation of the IMO convention on ballast water management.

IGCC/GCLME Visits Schools

Schools along the coastal region of Ghana have been educated on the protection of marine and coastal environment.

The education is part of a campaign strategy to raise public awareness and participation in the IGCC/GCLME activities. This public awareness campaign programme aims at working closely with institutional focal points and governmental organizations in the formulation of a framework of public awareness and outreach programme for countries of the Interim Guinea Current Commission.

Combating Living Resources depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in GCLME through Ecosystem-based Regional Actions for



Mr. Olu Sarr, interacting with students from Lincoln Community School in Accra.



Sylvia O. Nsenkyire; IGCC/GCLME Programme Assistant for Ghana educating pupils

the sixteen (16) in the region is the priority of the Interim Guinea Current Commission. And as a result of this, there is the need for public awareness campaign that will expose people to the state of our environment and empower them with tools to become environmentally responsible.

The promotion of environmental education in schools, colleges and universities is therefore the main focus of the GCLME campaign for raising public awareness on our marine and coastal environment.

About five schools in the coastal areas of Accra, Ghana have been visited so far. They include both junior and senior high schools, private and public. And feedback from these institutions has been very impactful and encouraging. Heads of other schools have expressed interest in the IGCC/GCLME project campaign and are inviting the Interim Guinea Current Commission to replicate this programme in their schools.

Upcoming Events

IW - LEARN Conference, Dubrovnic 17 -20 October 2011

ODIN Africa Conference, Dakar, 29th November - 2nd December 2011

IMO - GIWACAF Conference, Lagos, 10th - 14th October 2011

Mission to COREP, Libreville, 1st - 2nd November 2011

Annual Meeting of CREPA, Ouagadougou, 5th - 8th December 2011

African Water Development Report Meeting, Perugia, 7th -9th December 2011

NOTE TO EDITORS: This is an item of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem's Region Coordination Unit and may be reproduced with due acknowledgment of source. For more information or feedback contact Dr. Stephen Maxwell Donkor, Executive Secretary – sdonkor@gmail.com