



Mediterranean Oil Industry Group

**B2.2 Résidence Dar Maghreb
2045 Les Berges du Lac
AI BOUHAIRA- TUNIS
Tel : 0021671965359
Tel/Fax :0021671965192
Web : www.moig.org
E-mail: info.moig@planet.tn**

MOIG Egyptian Session and Ra Atum IV Exercise Final Report

**May 16-19, 2004
Alexandria- Egypt**

The first MOIG Session after the official opening of MOIG Permanent Secretary Office in Tunisia took place in Alexandria, Egypt from 16th to 19th of May, 2004. This Session was hosted by PESCo, MOIG member since 2004, who - in association with the Oil Sector - conducted a real-time Exercise at the Sidi Kerir Offshore Terminal. SUMED, the terminal owner / operator, has volunteered to participate in this Exercise as the "Main Industry Player" and is to be commended for stepping up to partner with PESCo to increase preparedness for a major oil spill. This Exercise reflected a realistic response to a major oil pollution incident.

On Tuesday 11th of May, 2004, MOIG - represented by its Director - participated in the last meeting of the Exercise Steering Committee at SUMED Offices in Alexandria to be updated on the preparations of the Exercise and the role of the MOIG delegates. This Exercise Steering Committee was formed from national and multi-national oil companies, government agencies and organizations - including the Egyptian Navy.



Last meeting of the Steering Committee at SUMED Office in Alexandria

Day 1: Morning, Visit of the Terminal:

On Sunday 16th of May, and according to the scheduled program, the MOIG delegates visited the Sidi Kerir Terminal for presentations on the Terminal activities and the Exercise Ra Atum IV.



Arrival of MOIG Delegates at Sidi Kerir Terminal

The first presentation was delivered by SUMED Terminal General Manager on the Terminal's activities and developments since inception.

The SUMED pipelines, with a capacity of approximately 2.5 million bbl/d, links the Ain Sukhna Terminal on the Gulf of Suez with Sidi Kerir on the Mediterranean. The pipelines consist of two parallel 42-inch lines and are owned by Arab Petroleum Pipeline Co. (SUMED), a joint venture of EGPC. The pipeline has been in operation since January 1977 and has served as an alternative to the Suez Canal and to transport loads from tankers that are too large to pass fully laden through the Canal.

The Sidi Kerir Offshore Terminal receives tankers to load crude oil via six SPM(s), three of which are capable of accommodating fully loaded vessels up to 350,000 DWT, whereas the other three are capable of accommodating fully loaded vessels up to 150,000 DWT. Each of the big SPM(s) are connected to a sea-line 48" N.D. and approximately 8.0 km long, whereas each of the small SPM(s) is connected to a sea-line 42" N.D. and approximately 5.0 km long. Each SPM is equipped with hawsers, pick-up ropes, floating and underwater hose strings. All SPM(s) are equipped with all facilities for simultaneous loading of crude oil and unloading of dirty ballast via separate floating and underwater hose strings and three sea lines.



Presentation of SUMED and Sidi Kerir Terminal to MOIG Delegates

The second presentation was delivered by Captain Richard Byrnes, Director of the Exercise, who briefed attendees on scheduled events that would take place over the following two days.

Captain Richard explained that due to the complexity of the Egyptian Mediterranean coastline, this Exercise will see the testing of, and integration between, various plans and procedures that are currently in place. The Exercise shall strive to encompass as far as practical all entities likely to be involved in a major oil spill of this nature, not only identify possible problem areas but help all concerned agencies and organizations reach a better understanding of pollution preparedness and response whilst increasing capabilities and reducing actual response times.

The main objectives of the Exercise are as follows:

- Testing of the notifications procedures identified in response plan.
- Testing the integration of response plans
- Demonstrating the ability of PESCo to operate within the framework of response management system identified in their quality and environmental procedures.
- Demonstrating the ability of the oil spill response organisation.
- Testing of communications system.



Briefing session on the RA ATUM Exercise

Day 1: Evening, Technical Presentations:

At 1800 hrs, we started with a technical presentations session in the meeting room of the Sheraton Hotel. All MOIG delegates and representatives of a majority of the Egyptian Oil and Gas Companies participated in this meeting.



MOIG Technical session



Mr. Hesham Nabih, President of IOSTC, started by presenting IOSTC's "Basics of Oil Spill Response" E-Learning application. The program is currently used by major petroleum companies, port authorities, coast guards and government agencies as an introductory and refresher course. The training application does not replace classroom or hands-on training but powerfully augments them. Among the many benefits of interactive training is the provision of field managers with a training tool to enhance their activities as local trainers in the training of field workers.

IOSTC has also presented a prototype of the application in Arabic language; since Hesham is an Oceanographer, originally from Egypt, he is committed to support MOIG in its efforts for providing the Middle East region with state-of-the-art technologies in the field of environmental management and oil spill response, and in translating technical information into the Arabic language.

IOSTC in association with Capilno College of North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada are conducting a "Basics of Oil Spill Response" training course in August 2004 in Vancouver. For more information about the course please visit www.iostc.com/osm.

IOSTC will offer a special price for "Basics of Oil Spill Response" interactive training application to MOIG members.

To review a demo of the program in Arabic and other languages, and for more information about IOSTC, please visit www.iostc.com.

Mr. Andrew Nash of Vikoma International Ltd. then gave a presentation on the recovery of hydrocarbons in the marine environment. The first part of the paper dealt with the changing properties of oil once in the water. Factors such as temperature, evaporation, viscosity and wave energy were explained and how the oil can change significantly over a relatively short period of time.

Mr. Nash presented details of the popular oleophilic skimmers but also gave details of a toothed disc, mechanical recovery system. This latter item has successfully recovered oils with viscosities of up to one million centistokes and proved its worth in many a difficult situation. The paper concluded that there is no definitive recovery system for all types of hydrocarbons.

Dr. Carlo Morucci of CASTALIA Ecolmar then gave a presentation on the Italian National Antipollution Structure. Castalia Eclomar is a consortium regrouping 34 shareholders with many of the most outstanding Italian ship owners who operate in the field of antipollution and emergency response. Dr. Carlo highlighted the main activities of the Italian National Structure consisting in patrolling of the territorial waters with specific attention to the protected sea areas and the close sea waters, measures to protect sea and coastal areas through the mechanical removal and physical disposal of liquid and solid pollutants, collection at sea, stocking, transport and disposal of liquid and solid materials including carcasses of cetaceans and other animals and finally first aid, assistance and rescue. Dr. Morucci presented also the areas covered by the service, the location of naval means and protected areas and how actions are coordinated and communicated between the intervenient.

After giving an idea about the results of their activity from 1999 to 2004, Dr. Morucci presented the agreement between ENI and CASTALIA Eclomar for Integrated Response System which aims to coordinate response with actual emergencies, define incident scenarios and relative plans of intervention, find available antipollution means and equipment, define and maintain the inventory of equipment and training courses and organise with ENI periodical exercises.

The last presentation was made by Mr. Toni Dumovi'c from Dezinsekcij d.o.o. Rijeka - Croatia who gave interesting information about the activity of his Company consisting mainly of plant control and protection services for sea and ground water. Mr. Tony explained that his Company provides removal of oil slicks and other substances from water surfaces and shorelines, or any other contaminated surface using modern technologies and biodegradable non-toxic dispersants.

Day 2 – Day 3: Morning, RA ATUM IV – Oil Spill Response Exercise

EXERCISE SCENARIO – RA Atum IV

The Master of Crude oil tanker Ra Atum IV anchored in the waiting area north of Sidi Kerir loading terminal in position 31° 11' .3" North 29° 38' East, reported by VHF to Sidi Kerir terminal that his vessel was leaking oil from the port bow area. Suspected crack in No 2 portside crude oil tank. The vessel had come from the Suez Canal and was partially loaded

Marine Manager immediately activates Tier 1 – Notifying EGPC / EEAA and PESCo (SUMED Contingency Plan Activated)

*350,000 dwt
Trim
Cargo
Bunkers
Oils*

*draft of 22.9 m
Even Keel
330,000 Iran Heavy Crude
1750 MT Heavy FO
65 Tons*

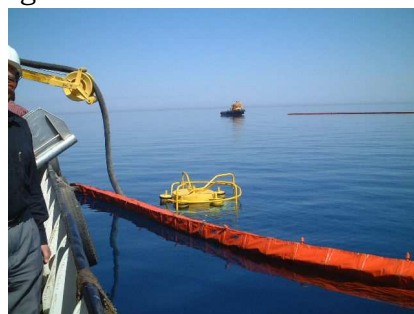
The Arab Academy provided Oil Spill Trajectory Model interphase to provide the Exercise with realistic scenarios.



Presentation of the simulator of the Arab Academy

The MOIG delegates, as evaluators and observers of the Exercise, were responsible for observing player actions and evaluating the execution of Response Plans and accessing the effectiveness of the response.

During the debriefing session, MOIG delegates expressed their observations and participated actively and with a lot of professionalism in establishing the recommendations and the future actions to be taken for the coming exercises.



Type of equipment deployed during the exercise

Comments:

Even with the few difficulties we met due to misunderstanding that generally happens during oil spill drills, I have great pleasure announcing the successful completion of the major Oil Pollution Response Exercise Ra Atum IV staged at "SUMED" Sidi Kerir Oil Terminal, Alexandria, Egypt. The success of this Exercise began by the close cooperation between government and industry. An Exercise Steering Committee was formed from national and multi-national oil companies, government agencies and organizations - including the Egyptian Navy. Valuable input from Exercise Steering Committee members over the course of several weeks has helped maximum the benefits derived from this Exercise.

Readily available equipment is a vital element of pollution response, however, it can prove useless unless the response mechanisms in place are stringently tested and amended as applicable. Credible protection strategies and the mechanisms that drive them will in no uncertain terms require close cooperation between government and industry especially during the event of a major incident. Previous exercises leading up to Ra Atum IV have seen recommendations evolve and current response mechanisms strengthened. In Egypt, they are definitely in a more positive position as a result of the ongoing cooperation between industry members and government.

Ra Atum IV was the first major Pollution Response Exercise in Egypt that was observed and evaluated by a contingent of over 25 foreign nationals from major governmental and industry organizations such as REMPEC, MOIG, OSRL and other important industry figures from throughout the region.

The Egyptian national observers and evaluators interacted professionally with their foreign counterparts. Organizations such as the MOIG provided the necessary expertise and support for such a monumental event. The MOIG contingent that was present in Egypt over the course of the Exercise is to be commended for not only portraying their companies' commitment to environmental protection but for the high level of enthusiasm shown from the very early stages of the Exercise.

Part of the conclusion of the Exercise was a meeting held on the evening of 18th May, 2004 directly after the event. This meeting saw group discussion from national and multi-national observers, evaluators and visitors. The feedback from the attendees was inspiring and very positive. The surprise to the MOIG visitors was the way the Egyptian companies and organizations represented, interacted with each other and the high level of expertise available. This is without doubt due to the positive approach from all those involved.

Day 4: Morning, Visit to the Arab Academy:

At the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport on 19th May, 2004, Dr. Gamal Mokhtar (President of the Arab Academy), Eng. Moustafa Goma (Chairman of SUMED), Eng. Mahmoud Nazim (Chairman of MIDOR), Mr. Alan Cobden (British Consul), Dr. Abdel Hady Fawzy (Vice Minister of Energy, Scotland, UK), Dr. Hatem El-Kerdany (Environmental Advisor to the President of AASTMT) and Dr. Hazem Bashat (Shell Egypt /Chairman MOIG) - thanked all those involved for developing and staging such a high level event. The individual remarks from the distinguished gentlemen although of high significant importance collectively supported earlier feelings that the event overall was a great success and that all those involved not only demonstrated the ability to cooperate together, but how this cooperation can be channelled into a systematic approach to provide maximum pollution response cover with current resources available. A continual improvement to the pollution response capabilities of Egypt was readily apparent to us all. Special thanks to SUMED for the inspiration and willingness to participate as industry's main player and to all the PESCO personnel for providing the framework where we can all cooperate and interact together. SUMED and PESCO made the event possible, your cooperation made the event happen.

REMPEC represented by Mr Francois Leotoing gave a valuable presentation on regional governmental cooperation and how the close working relationship in the region can support and interact to support all the countries within the Mediterranean region.

MOIG presented the new industry organization supported by the IMO and IPIECA that was recently launched in January 2004 in Tunisia. The Presenter and Director of MOIG, Mr. Ridha Dhaoui, gave the attendees the opportunity to understand the objectives and goals of MOIG, thanking the Egyptian personnel for the invite to such a significant event and stressing that exercises such as these are for the benefit of all. Although the MOIG is based in Tunisia, the MOIG is for the entire Mediterranean region. The Egyptian experience gives us all food for thought. The national approach that Egypt has adopted for pollution response is the way MOIG foresees the regional approach. We are all at different stages of preparedness throughout the Mediterranean region and only through consistent cooperation through the MOIG can the regional effort for the Mediterranean protection be realized. Any pollution in the Mediterranean Sea affects us all. We all need to concentrate our efforts and work closely with the MOIG who can provide the regional unified voice for industry in the region.

Dr. Mohamed Borhan, the National Coordinator of Egypt's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, gave a quick presentation on Egypt's NOSCP. In his presentation, he explained the procedures adopted by Egypt in preparing local contingency plans (Tier 1 Plans) that group all stakeholders under the umbrella of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). Egypt adopts the tier response concept through the NOSCP. Response options, notifications and reporting systems are integrated between the different levels of response: Tier 1 – local/national, Tier 2 – national/international, Tier 3 – international. Finally, the Incident Command System used by The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency in operating the Central Environmental Disaster Centre was explained including the relation between different tasks and working groups.

This report would not be complete without a special thanks to the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, the Egyptian Navy for the provision of two support vessels and crew, RASHPETCO for the Skandi Bergan and crew and all the people behind the scenes, the helicopter pilots and crew, captains, engineers, technicians and mechanics that demonstrated a high level of professionalism.

See you in Venice – Italy in November 2004.



Photo of the MOIG Delegates

MOIG Director
Ridha Dhaoui