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18 March, 2008 ... Another GEM Departs

Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Théodore Djama

By
Staff of The Executive Secretariat,
IGCC

*"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely
players; They have their exits and their entrances; ..."*

Shakespeare in "As You Like It"



Late Théodore Djama

The IGCC was informed of the sudden death of our former colleague and friend, Dr. Théodore Djama at the Kribi District Hospital, Cameroon, on 18 March, 2008.

Dr. Djama served as Fisheries Scientist at the Executive Secretariat of the IGCC for two years.

The Staff of the GCLME Project mourns with the bereaved family and scientific community of Cameroon for this great loss.

Born on 30 August, 1953, in Sangmelima, Cameroon, Dr. Djama held a Masters Degree and a PhD. in Fisheries from the University of Wales, United Kingdom. Before joining the GCLME Programme in 2005, he was head of the IRAD Station in Limbe, Cameroon. He has authored several scientific publications on fisheries, and represented Cameroon in ICAT (FAO) for many years.

He is survived by his wife, 4 children and 3 grand children.

May his soul rest in perfect peace !

Sensitization and Information on the Abidjan Convention and IGCC.

Between 18 and 19 March, 2008, Benin organized a National Workshop on Sensitization and Information on the Abidjan Convention and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project (GCLME). The Workshop was attended by representatives from Ministries, Associations of Fishermen, Women Fish Wholesale Dealers and various structures intervening in the coastal area of Benin.

The Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature (MEPN), Benin, Madam Juliette Biao Koudonoukpo chaired the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop.



*Benin Minister of
Environment and
Protection of Nature,
HE Madam
Juliette Biao
Koudonoukpo.*

On welcoming participants, the National Director of Environment, Mrs. Dossou stressed the importance of the Workshop in Benin. She affirmed the great importance of the Project to the coastal areas.

Professor Sikirou ADAM, representing the IGCC Secretariat stressed the effects of pollution and environmental degradations. He also indicated these concerns are common to the GCLME countries.

The Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature (MEPN) gave a summary of pollution sources and other environmental degradation causes in Benin. She also indicated the remedy actions undertaken by the government so far.





Mrs. Bernadette Glehouenou Dossou, National Director of Environment, Benin addressing participants.

On this note, she exhorted participants to also explore alternative means which could help in preserving the coastal areas.

During the working sessions, Mr Wabi Marcos, the National Consultant for pollution recalled the major types of pollution in the coastal areas of Benin and their sources.

Mr. Marcos updated participants with the legal/regulatory framework that have been set so far to prevent/

mitigate pollution from human activities.

Professor Sikirou Adam recalled the origin of the project and pointed out the achievements of the project which include:

- reinforcement of the capacities through the trainings of national experts in each member state of the project; and,
- realization of the coastal profile of each of the 16 Member States;
- realization of a regional Transboundary Diagnosis Analysis
- realization of a regional Strategic Action Plan
- preparation of National Programmes of action



L-R: HE Madam Juliette Biao Koudonoukpo. and the Deputy Minister of Habitat, Housing, Forestry Reform & Coastal Erosion.

UNIDO PTC/ECB Technical Mission to the GCLME RCU, Accra.

From 25 to 29 February, 2008, Dr. Pablo Huidobro, Chief Water Unit PTC/ECB and Dr. Heinz Leuenberger, Director, PTC/ECB, both of UNIDO were on technical mission to the GCLME RCU, Accra.

Dr. Huidobro arrived Accra on 25 March and was later joined by Dr. Heinz Leuenberger on 27 March.

The objective of their mission was to acquaint themselves with the progress of the GCLME project.



L-R : Dr. Heinz Leuenberger, Hon. Kwadwo Adjei-Darko, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Ghana and Dr. Pablo Huidobro.

Activities that were carried out during their mission include:

- Presentation of the GCLME project : Status of implementation including Finance/ Budget
- Briefing on : Regional Activity Centers and Regional Demo Projects by responsible experts
- Briefing by National / Regional Experts
- Meeting with Staff of IGCC - Individual Staff Presentations according to Job Description
- Visit to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment - Meeting with the Minister, Hon. Kwadwo Adjei-Darko
- Visit to Project Institutions (Legon, Water Research Institute etc.)



Dr. Heinz Leuenberger, Dr. Pablo Huidobro and Dr. George Wiafe, Coordinator of the GCLME Regional Marine Productivity and Biodiversity Centre, during the visit to the Centre.

Following presentation on Protection of Coastal Areas, by the of the GCLME Regional Consultant on Erosion, Engr. George Nai, he led Mr. Huidobro and Dr. Leuenberger to assess the coastal protected site at Labadi in Accra.



Dr. leuenberger, Dr. Huidobro, and Dr. J. Abe being briefed by Engr. Nai. (2nd from right).

***The GCLME Project
Mid-Term Evaluation Exercise***

The first leg of GCLME Mid-Term Evaluation exercise took place between 22 March and 01 April, 2008. Mr. Lucien Chabason who is the Evaluator from UNEP arrived Accra on 22 March and commenced work at the GCLME RCU on 23 March where he was welcomed by Dr. Jacques Abe, the Environment Scientist of the project.



L-R: Mr. J. Ndubuisi, ICT Officer, Dr. J. Abe, Env. Scientist, Ms. S. Yawson, Prog. Asst. to the Reg. Marine Prod. and Biodiversity Centre during the working session at the RCU. Regional Marine Productivity and Biodiversity Centre, during the visit to the Centre.

L-R: Mr. N. Gbolonyo, Admin. Officer and Mr. S. Quaatey, GCLME National Fisheries Expert in Ghana also at the working session with Mr. Chabason.



While in Accra, Mr. Chabason had working sessions with the staff of the IGCC Secretariat, Consultations with Members of National Steering Committee, Ghana and also with the UNDO Representative, Mr. Antonio Levissianos.



The MTE Consultant meeting with members of the GCLME National Steering Committee in Ghana.

Mr. Chabason visited the GCLME Regional Marine Productivity & Biodiversity Centre, located in the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries at the University of Ghana, Legon, and also, the Water Research Institute, (Pollution Monitoring Project) in Accra.

Mr. Chabason, MTE consultant and Dr. George Wiafe, GCLME Regional Expert on Productivity at the Regional Activity Centre's Laboratory.



Mr. Julien Chabason, MTE consultant with Dr. Peter Nwilo, Coordinator of the Regional Centre for EIMS.



Mr. Chabason, MTE consultant during a Working session with Scientists of Water Research Institute, Accra, Ghana.

The evaluation exercise in Accra, Ghana ended on 26 March as the Evaluator continued to Benin where he interacted with stakeholders to the GCLME Project.

The exercise was also extended to Lagos, Nigeria where Mr. Chabason had working sessions with some of the Project's consultants and a representative of the GCLME Focal point at the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Mr. E.O. William.



Group picture of the MTE consultant with Nigerian Consultants

Upcoming Events!

- 29 April- 2 May, 2008: IMO/UNIDO/ IGCC Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the MARPOL Convention with focus on the revised Annex II and the amended IBC Code; RCU, Accra, Ghana,
- 13 - 16 May, 2008: Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP); RCU, Accra, Ghana.