



N° 166 - News from March 2009

In short

TRAINING

► From 16th to 19th March, Crisis management training course, 17 participants.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Cedre's anniversary
 Thirty years ago, following the oil spill caused by the *Amoco Cadiz*, Cedre came into being. To mark this event, an **Open Day** will be held on **19 June** with a full programme including demonstrations, equipment deployment, a photo exhibition, a competition...

INTERSPILL 2009

There is still time to register for the conference and exhibition INTERSPILL 2009 (www.interspills.com).

INFOPOL seminar

A few places are still available for our international seminar Infopol 2009. **Contact us** to register.

Cedre's new website - now online!



Cedre's new website offers a new graphic design, new features (interactive map, RSS feed, online registration forms), as well as more structured information. Visit it today!
www.cedre.fr

Emergency response

Only one spill in March (light oil), on the River Seine (Essonne area). Our role consisted of informing the fire service of the responsibilities and management of clean-up operations. This month, four exercises took place on the transmission of material safety data sheets and information sheets for hazardous substances. The maritime authorities called upon Cedre to contribute to research into the nature of a container lost at sea. We also informed the French Navy's operational centre of the nature of and risks presented by a chemical transported in bulk, identified under a brand name.

Again on the theme of inquiries, the Community of Communes of Upper Corsican questioned Cedre on the role of local government in the response to the grounding of a wooden vessel, now dismantled on land in a Corsican commune.

Symposium in Korea

Two members of the Spill Follow-up team were invited by the Korean National Park Service (KNPS) to participate in the *Hebei Spirit* International Oil Spill Symposium 2009, organised by the Korean Ministry of the Environment and KNPS from 3 to 6 March 2009 in Taean (South Korea). The symposium consisted of presentations on feedback from the response to this spill and the restoration of impacted areas within Taean Haean National Park, a year and half after the *Hebei Spirit* oil spill (December 2007). Cedre gave three presentations, concerning French experience in terms of response techniques and oil impact assessment. Prior to the symposium, the lecturers participated in a group of international experts which aimed to issue recommendations in terms of monitoring and restoration programmes in Korean national parks located along the coastline.

Cedre Information Day

On 5 March 2009, Cedre organised its 14th Information Day, for the third year running on the premises of INHES (Institut National des Hautes Etudes de Sécurité) at Saint-Denis-La-Plaine near Paris. This event brought together over 70 participants to focus on the theme "Accidental water pollution: impact of statutory and regulatory evolutions". The very positive feedback confirms that legal issues are of interest to our audience. The conferences given at the Information Day are available at www.cedre.fr in the "Publications" section.

Recovery vessel trials

On 27 March, *Cedre* attended a demonstration of the recovery vessel *Catamar*, organised by its Breton designer Ecocéane at the estuary of Lézardrieux (Côtes-d'Armor). Although the area chosen was sheltered by the *Sillon de Talbert* pebble peninsula, the sea conditions were nonetheless significant. It was not possible in the allotted time to venture offshore to assess the vessel's capacities in stronger seas. The demonstration involved recovering rice hull (pollutant simulant) released three times a few hundred metres from the vessel. The *Catamar* showed good handling when pursuing slicks. The recovery principle (previously tested by *Cedre* on the *Cataglop XL* with different pollutants on our technical facilities – see Newsletter 154) proved to be efficient in the prevailing sea conditions.

Recommendations were however made to improve the catamaran's performance in terms of pollutant recovery capacity.

InterRisk project

In addition to a progress meeting on 5 and 6 March, the project team organised a workshop at *Cedre* on 4 March, gathering together some thirty-odd people to focus on the question of a specific web portal developed in France to share all kinds of data between the "Slick drift monitoring committee" members and exploit them. Analogue tools developed in Ireland, the United Kingdom and Norway were also presented and discussed.

Polmar sea exercise in Martinique

Following the West Indies Polmar sea exercise organised in Saint Barthelemy in November 2008 (Newsletter 163), during which containment and recovery techniques were implemented, an exercise involving a simulation of dispersant spreading using aerial and nautical means was organised off the coast of Bellefontaine on 24 March 2009. The main aim was to test the new equipment onboard the French Navy tug *Maïto*. *Cedre's* Caribbean delegate participated in this event as an observer and technical adviser of the French navy and the Antilles maritime authorities. The exercise was a success: rapid operation set-up, smooth deployment of spraying equipment and optimal coordination with aircraft.

New Maritime Prefect for the Mediterranean

Vice-admiral Yann Tainguy, promoted to the French rank of vice-admiral of the fleet, has recently been appointed Maritime Prefect for the Mediterranean, commander of the Mediterranean maritime zone.

GI WACAF workshop in Cameroon

As part of the Global Initiative for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF), the Cameroon Pipeline Steering and Monitoring Committee organised, in collaboration with IMO/IPIECA, a workshop on response to oil spills. Some fifty-odd Cameroonian senior officials met from 9 to 11 March 2009 in Yaoundé. They were able to attend conferences by national and international experts on regional and international cooperation in the area, the different technical aspects related to oil spill response and experience feedback from real cases of spills. A member of *Cedre's* management team and the manager of the Contingency Planning Department helped to lead this workshop, whose originality lay in a tabletop exercise organised in relation with a Total E&P Cameroon exercise the same day in Douala.

Australia: heavy fuel oil in Queensland

On 11 March, luck was not on the *Pacific Adventure's* side, as she travelled from Indonesia to Brisbane: when 31 of the 60 containers of ammonium nitrate she was transporting fell overboard in the tail of a typhoon, off Cape Moreton, one of them hit the hull, piercing one of the ship's bunker tanks. Some 200 to 250 m³ of heavy fuel oil spilled into the water, and went on to spread over 60 km of the Queensland coastline. A mine hunter was mobilised to search for the lost containers and 500 people were enlisted in clean-up operations on the shoreline, part of which was declared a disaster zone.

USA/Philippines: a series of near misses

There is sometimes a fine line between close calls and major oil spills. This month saw two new examples. The double-hulled Norwegian oil tanker *SKS Satilla* tore her outer hull on a submerged oil platform in Galveston Bay, thankfully without causing any damage to the inner hull. The 240,000 tonnes of crude oil the vessel was carrying were transferred onto other vessels, before the *SKS Satilla* was allowed to go for repair. A few days later, the oil tanker *Chelsea Enterprise* collided with another vessel just off the port of Manila. Luckily the result was no more than crumpled metal.

[Unsubscribe from the *Cedre* Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)