

N° 245 – News from April 2016

Emergency response

April was a particularly busy month. Cedre was called upon following an oil leak which occurred on 5th April in the Sainte-Anne-sur-Brivet area (Loire-Atlantique) from the Donges-Vern-sur-Seiche pipeline. Several agents from Cedre were, and continue to be, mobilised by the Loire-Atlantique authorities to conduct surveys and to supervise clean-up operations alongside State agencies, in particular **ONEMA**, and Total. These agents are contributing their expertise by providing on-site technical recommendations in terms of the appropriate clean-up equipment and advice on restoration of the environment. A sampling and analysis programme was also carried out by Cedre to provide a foundation for this advice. Cedre also took part in several exercises:

- by running oil transport and behaviour forecast models upon request by Total,
- by conveying information and modelling results relating to a fictional spill of methyl ethyl ketone, during a MAR-Ice network exercise run by **EMSA**,
- by providing expertise for an oil spill scenario in the Mediterranean as part of the RAMOGEPOL exercise.

Cedre also made enquiries (in particular through its colleagues at **ISPRA**) and exchanged information for the Monegasque and French maritime authorities following an oil spill in the region of Genoa.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ **ADRIASPILLCON** from 10th to 12th May 2016, Opatija, Croatia.
- ▶ **AMOP** from 7th to 9th June in Halifax (Nova Scotia), Canada.
- ▶ **Brest 2016**: maritime event from 13th to 19th July 2016.
- ▶ **Sea Tech Week** from 10th to 14th October 2016, Quartz Congress Centre, Brest.

Cedre's Director visits South-East Asia

From 21st to 27th April, the Director of Cedre went on assignment to various member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He first visited Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia where he met with representatives of a company with which Cedre has signed a partnership agreement. The aim of this partnership is to investigate the technical and economic benefits this company could draw from creating a training centre specialised in spill response in the waters of this region of the globe. This question was also addressed during a meeting with the State services in charge of maritime transport and pollution prevention. Cedre's Director then travelled to Singapore as part of the "Jeanne d'Arc" mission, organised each year by *Brest Métropole Océane*. He met with several companies involved in port and/or oil activities. Discussions revolved around the training actions which could be run on site or on Cedre's premises in Brest. The Director was also in contact with the head of the maritime law department at the **National University of Singapore** (NUS) to discuss joint actions, in particular in terms of research and remote sensing. NUS is hoping to organise a visit to Cedre in summer 2016. Cedre's Director was also received by the Port Master of the **Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore** (MPA) to discuss the contracts in progress and the organisation of training courses in Brest and on site in the field of chemical spill response. The final item on the agenda was a meeting with representatives of the French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore.

Training for ENSAM students

On 7th April, an engineer from Cedre ran a training day in Nantes on oil spill response in marine waters for 20 officers in training at **ENSAM** (French National school of the Safety and the Administration of the Sea), on the point of being appointed to an MRCC (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre), a maritime authority (prefecture), a DDTM (Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea) or a DML (Delegation for the Sea and Shoreline).

Training in French Guiana

Thanks to backing from the AM3 office of the Maritime Affairs Directorate, locally represented by the Directorate for the Sea and more specifically by the MRCC for the French West Indies and Guiana, a training course on surveying oil pollution at sea and on the shoreline was organised by Cedre in Cayenne, from 11th to 13th April. Support was provided by the French customs aeromaritime brigade. Around 20 participants from the public and private sectors in Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe attended the course.

Sobegi contingency plan presentation

On 14th and 15th April, two agents presented the environmental contingency plan to the Health, Safety, Environment and Major Accident Prevention Committee, on site at the Induslacq platform near Pau. To prepare for and handle a chemical spill risk, the syndicate ASL Induslacq tasked Cedre with developing a synoptic operational document to address the different issues facing the industrial firms based on the platform. The presentation and the recommendations made by Cedre gave rise to fruitful discussions and sparked great interest among the committee members. This assignment was also the opportunity to organise a meeting with the Sobegi (Industrial Management Company from Bearn) response department, complete with a presentation of their emergency response equipment and a tour of the training centre's technical facilities.

European project POSOW II

This month was marked by headway on various aspects of the POSOW II project (Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions), funded by the European Union civil protection mechanism (DG ECHO) and coordinated by Cedre (see Newsletters 238 and 242). First, new batches of training materials (manuals, posters, slideshows) were published at the beginning of the month. Thus the training materials on volunteer management, site surveys, shoreline clean-up and wildlife rescue produced during POSOW I are now available in Arabic and Turkish. Training materials on the new themes addressed in POSOW II (waste management and the role of fishermen) are now available in English on the [project website](#). These materials complete the series of POSOW publications which now comprises 6 guides, 16 posters, 17 slideshows and 6 train-the-trainer manuals, all available free of charge from the project website in English and, in the coming weeks, in Arabic and Turkish (the materials produced during POSOW I are also available in Croatian, Spanish, French, Italian, Greek and Slovenian). These new documents were put to use straight away for two train-the-trainer courses held at Cedre from 19th to 22nd then from 26th to 29th April for 33 trainers from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey). These trainers are now due to organise a training course in their respective countries using the training materials produced in order to develop a pool of trained volunteers, listed in the project database. Learn more on www.posow.org



1. Shoreline survey workshop
2. Riprap clean-up workshop
3. Port clean-up workshop
4. Oiled bird approach and capture techniques workshop

OSInet annual meeting

The annual meeting of OSInet, the oil spill identification network, was held from 20th to 22nd April at Finland's national forensic laboratory in Helsinki. This network comprises experts from various European countries as well, this year, as participants from Malaysia, South Korea and China. This meeting is the opportunity to share experiences in terms of oil spill identification, to hold scientific discussions on this theme and to review the annual intercalibration exercise. The theme of this year's "Round Robin" test, organised by the Dutch laboratory RWS, was biodiesel. 31 laboratories submitted their conclusions on this case which consisted in comparing a sample affected by various degradation phenomena with 3 potential sources of contamination.

Unloading of the *Modern Express* now underway (Spain)

Two months after the *Modern Express*, with over a 50° list, was towed to Bilbao (see Newsletter 242), where it was righted, the ship has eventually begun to be unloaded. The cargo of excavators and 4,000 tonnes of wood still on board began to be removed in early April. It remains to be seen what will become of the vessel once it has been emptied and the causes of the accident are still to be determined.

Butter spill churns up a stir

On the morning of 12th April, many pale yellow globs of various sizes, from a few grams to almost a kilo, were seen floating at the surface of a several kilometre-long stretch of the Odet River, which runs through the city of Quimper in Brittany. This was the result of a spill of butter, due to an incident at the Candia factory. The fire brigade responded to the spill as, although not a chemical, butter is an organic product which could, given the quantity released, dramatically decrease the oxygen levels in the water. The origin of the spill was rapidly identified to be a rainwater drainage pipe

from which the butter was escaping. The plant immediately closed this drainage pipe until repairs had been made and launched an internal inspection of its facilities. The company estimated the spill at around 10 kg of butter. A week later, the Sodiaal group's management announced that the release had been caused by a crack in a pipe causing the butter to be dumped into the rainwater drainage network.

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