



Dear shippers,

In the month of August 2024, news at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) and the Port Authority of Douala (PAD) was marked by the return of the **"Chantal Biya"** dredger to the Douala-Bonaberi port.

This vessel had been away for repairs in Nigeria for the past two years. With her return, the **"Chantal Biya"** dredger will join the fleet of equipment used for dredging and harbour maintenance works, as well as buoying works on waterways.

In Garoua, the CNSC took an active part in discussions towards the relaunch of activities and operations at the Garoua river port, and the navigability of the Lagdo and Maga lakes. Both events greatly contribute to the promotion of Cameroon's foreign trade and to the competitiveness of these ports, notably the port of Douala and that of Garoua in the northern part of the country.

The CNSC equally hosted a series of meetings geared towards foreign trade promotion. These included a meeting with strategic partners of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Hub (CWEIC-Hub) in preparation for the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) and the CHOGM in October 2024 in Samoa Island.

Trade policy experts from the United Kingdom also paid a working visit to the CNSC on the sidelines of the 2nd session of the Cameroon-UK Economic Partnership Agreement Joint Committee meeting.

Finally, the CNSC played a strategic role in the organisation of a preparatory meeting for Cameroonian companies ahead of the **"Go Africa Export Fair Istanbul 2024"** to be held in Turkey.

Have an enjoyable reading!

Auguste Mbappe Penda

CNSC General Manager



## RIVER PORT

### GAROUA RIVER PORT SOON TO RELAUNCH OPERATIONS



● **Garoua riverport: New Impetus to Cameroon's Economy**

● **EPA: UK trade experts learn about CWEIC's missions**

● **GO Africa 2024: CNSC hosts the 1st preparatory meeting in Douala**

● **Business: Preparatory meeting for the Commonwealth Business Forum**

● **Triumphant return of the Chantal BIYA dredger after two years abroad for repairs**

● **Entertainment: Finale of the Douala Maritime Museum's Holiday programme**

## Economy

### Rehabilitation of the Garoua river port

#### New Impetus to Cameroon's Economy.



*CNSC GM at the working session*

A delegation from the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), led by its General Manager **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, was in Garoua from 19 to 23 August 2024 to take part in a working session chaired by **Mr. Jean Abate Edi'i**, Governor of the North Region. This event marked an important stage in the relaunch of activities at the Garoua river port and the navigability of the Lagdo and Maga lakes. The working session was initiated by the Port Authority of Douala (PAD) and conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development with a view to rehabilitate the Garoua river port, considered to be a potential driving force for Cameroon's economy. The CNSC, committed to protecting the interests of shippers, will take a close look at the studies carried out by the various consultants in order to identify recovery strategies to be proposed to the government for approval. The rehabilitation project aims to improve the navigability of the Lagdo and Maga lakes, making these waterways accessible and functional; relaunch operations at the Garoua river port, thereby promoting trade and facilitating cargo transport; and, finally, boost economic activities in the north region by bringing-in new investors. It is worth noting that the Port Authority of Douala has been mandated by the government to provide its expertise in the rehabilitation of this river port. The project includes the modernisation of existing infrastructure and the revival of economic activities in the north region. The aim is not only to modernise existing infrastructure, but also to galvanise the port economy in the northern regions. This project is part of a broader vision for economic development and regional integration.

## EPA

### UK trade experts visit the CNSC

#### Team gains insight on CWEIC's missions.



*GM with UK trade experts*

The General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, was delighted to host a delegation of UK trade policy experts at CNSC's head office building on 22 August 2024. The working visit organised at the request of the British High Commissioner **H.E. Barry Lowen**, held on the sidelines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Cameroon-UK Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) joint committee meeting with the aim to better understand Cameroon's foreign trade procedures and operational measures for the successful implementation of trade agreements, especially the UK-Cameroon EPA and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The delegation comprised of **Anna Begley**, **Victoria Allard**, and **Mr. Khalil Bechir** from the Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), accompanied by **Mr. Michael Kimbi** and **Mrs. Bertine Bumakor** from the Business and Trade Department at the British High Commission in Cameroon. **Mr. Cham Etienne Bama**, Technical Adviser No.1 at the CNSC, briefed the delegation on the various initiatives taken by the CNSC to promote foreign trade and grow Cameroon's exports in order to maximise the benefits of these free-trade agreements. In his presentation, **Mr. Cham Etienne** emphasised on the conception of trade facilitation tools such as the Cameroon trade information portal dubbed "**The Cameroon Trade Hub**" and the organisation of free-access capacity-building workshops for shippers. This visit marks an important step towards strengthening trade relations between Cameroon and the UK with an eye to a flourishing future for both countries.



## GO Africa 2024

### *Preparations are underway for the trade fair in Turkey*

**CNSC hosts the 1<sup>st</sup> preparatory meeting in Douala.**



*Messrs. Essombe Dinh and Fabrice Funiba*

**I**n line with its mission to promote foreign trade and assist shippers, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> preparatory meeting for the **"Go Africa Export Fair Istanbul 2024"**, in collaboration with the Turkish-Cameroonian Businessmen's Association (TURCABA), the international chamber of Turkish and Cameroonian businessmen. The working session was chaired by **Mr. Essombe Dinh**, Sub-Director for Foreign Trade Promotion at the CNSC. He was assisted by **Mr. Fabrice Funiba**, President of TURCABA, who provided answers to questions about the event, its objectives and participation modalities. The GO Africa Trade Fair will take place at the Istanbul Expo Centre from 27 to 30 November 2024, and is expected to be a key event in showcasing Africa's economic potential. Organised under the theme **"Discovering Africa's potential"**, this trade event seeks to showcase the numerous opportunities offered by African businesses. Despite Africa's considerable wealth, the continent still accounts for only a small share of bilateral trade with Turkey. This fair is thus designed to provide a solution to this situation, with a view to promoting trade by establishing promising business relations between Turkish and African companies.

## Business

### *CHOGM in the pipeline*

**Preparatory meeting for the Commonwealth Business Forum.**



*Participants*

**O**n 26 August 2024, Strategic Partners of the CWEIC HUB for Cameroon, Gabon and Togo met at the head office of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) at the invitation of the Hub's Chairman **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled for 23-24 October 2024 in Samoa. The meeting was moderated by **Mr. Cham Etienne Bama**, Regional Director of the CWEIC-Hub and Technical Advisor No. 1 at the CNSC. Discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities of these two major events. Each Strategic Partner had the opportunity to explore the themes of the upcoming roundtable conferences, highlighting specific opportunities in their sectors of activity. One example is the Port Authority of Douala (PAD), which will be talking about the prospects of the blue economy, while the Cameroon Businesswomen's Group (GFAC) will be looking at the elimination of trade barriers. These are all important aspects of trade development and the promotion of inclusive growth in the region. The Cameroon-Gabon-Togo CWEIC-Hub has reaffirmed its commitment to assist all 11 strategic partners in completing the administrative, logistic and technical requirements for their participation at the 2024 CBF. This collaboration seeks to ensure the massive participation of all stakeholders. The meeting was a key step in preparations for the 2024 CHOGM, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation to benefit from the Commonwealth advantage. Together, the members of the CWEIC-Hub are determined to make their voices heard and to contribute actively in the discussions that will shape the economic future of their region.

## Chantal BIYA dredger

### Triumphant return

*The vessel is expected to enhance trade operations.*



*Chantal Biya Dredger at the Douala Port*

The Douala - Bonaberi port was honoured to welcome the newly renovated **"Chantal Biya"** dredger home from Port Harcourt in Nigeria on 16 August 2024. This emblematic vessel which had spent over two years away for repairs was officially received by **Mr. Cyrus Ngo'o**, Director General of the Port Authority of Douala (PAD), who was accompanied by **Mr. Eboupeke Louis**, General Manager of the National Ports Authority (NPA); and **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNCC). They all hailed the triumphant return of this flagship vessel. **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda** remarked that **"the Chantal Biya dredger will boost Cameroon's foreign trade and significantly contribute to the competitiveness of the Douala Sea port"**. This equipment will be used for a variety of operations such as harbour maintenance works and the removal of sediments on the Wouri riverbed. The **"Chantal Biya"** dredger will be used for dredging interventions as well as mechanical and hydraulic maintenance and excavation works on water bodies, as well as buoying works.

## Entertainment

### Finale of the Museum's Holiday programme

*Young holidaymakers thrill the public and their parents.*



*Sketch by kids at the museum*

The Douala Maritime Museum hosted the closing ceremony of the 9th edition of the **"Fun and Educational Holidays"** programme on 16 August 2024. About a hundred children between the ages of 5 and 15 thrilled the public with artistic and cultural performances. With much fun and excitement, the ceremony was presided over by **Mr. Landry Massoma**, Service Head at the Museum. The children, dressed in costumes representing the different cultures in Cameroon, showcased the fruits of six weeks of intense learning. Each performance - be it singing, dancing, drama or painting - was greeted with a warm ovation from the audience. Under the guidance of dedicated instructors, the children not only demonstrated their artistic skills, but also their understanding of traditional values and good behaviour. The programme was a true celebration of Cameroonian culture, with each performance revealing a piece of Cameroon's cultural diversity.

## The Shippers' Newsletter

Cameroon National Shippers' Council's publication

Head Office : Centre des Affaires Maritimes, Bonanjo, Douala.  
P.O. Box 1588, Douala.

Tel. : (237) 233 43 67 67 / 233 43 67 69, Fax : 233 43 70 17.

Email : [info@cncc.cm](mailto:info@cncc.cm), Website : [www.cncc.cm](http://www.cncc.cm).

Publisher : Auguste Mbappe Penda.

Editor : Théodore Roger Dippah Kayesse.

Collaborators on this edition : Christopher Agwagwa, Luc Ndob,

Randolph Njume, Junior Okoumama, Fabien Il Amougou, Stella Nkama,

Jean Marcel Hell, Vanessa MELLA KAMDEM.

Translation : Agwagwa Christopher Viyih, Njume Randolph Metuge.

Intern: Ngo Ngue H., Ndoumbe K., Mompouth A., Ewane S., Nsangou F.

Printer : Harmony Poly Business.

Paris Office - France  
3, Rue du Quatre-septembre, 75002, Paris  
Tel. : +33 (0) 42 81 79 24

[representation@cncc.cm](mailto:representation@cncc.cm)

Kribi Office  
Ngove, Opposite TRADEX  
Tel. : (237) 222 46 16 37 Kribi  
[antennesud@cncc.cm](mailto:antennesud@cncc.cm)

Limbe Office  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, CDC Credit Union Head Office  
Tel. : (237) 233 33 21 36 / 233 33 21 38 Limbe  
[swregionaloffice@cncc.cm](mailto:swregionaloffice@cncc.cm)

Centre Regional Office - Yaounde  
Tel. : 237 222 220 283, 222 220 284, 222 220 285  
[antennecentre@cncc.cm](mailto:antennecentre@cncc.cm)

Far North Regional Office - Kousseri  
Tel. : 696 12 99 13  
[antenneextremenord@cncc.cm](mailto:antenneextremenord@cncc.cm)

