

Seminar

Training of SMEs

CNSC and APME organised a training seminar in Yaounde

The National Shippers' Council (CNSC) and the SME Promotion Agency (APME) organised a training seminar on the theme: **"The Importance of Private Investment Incentives in the Development of Local Value Chains and the Promotion of the Import-Substitution Policy."**



for Shippers' Assistance, Mrs. Takouchop Onana Claire, who urged participants to make the most of the presence of the experts and all the knowledge they shared in their presentations. Many experts from different state and private institutions were invited to feature on the seminar's panel. Mrs. Makasso Armelle, CNSC Service

This seminar which was attended by *SME delegates at the training seminar* Head for Export Assistance, over 150 Cameroonian SMEs aimed at schooled the 147 participants boosting the competitiveness of these local SMEs, on the mastery of foreign trade procedures and especially that of women-owned businesses. under the private investment incentive scheme. The opening speech was made by CNSC's Director



CAMEROON
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The Shippers' Newsletter

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COOPERATION

INAUGURATION OF CWEIC HUB

Dear shippers,

In the month of April 2023, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) witnessed the memorable inauguration of the Commonwealth Enterprise Investment Council (CWEIC) Hub for Cameroon and Gabon by CWEIC's Chairman, Lord Jonathan Peter Marland. The ceremony thus marked the materialization of the partnership established between the CNSC and CWEIC in November 2021. It is more than evident that the CWEIC Hub is good news for the business communities of Cameroon and Gabon since it potentially gives them access to the markets of 56 different countries, all members of the Commonwealth.

Moreover, with a view to better equip entrepreneurs and promote the «*Made in Cameroon*» brand, the CNSC and the SME (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) Promotion Agency (APME) organized a training seminar in Yaoundé on the theme: *“The Importance of Private Investment Incentives in the Development of Local Value Chains and the Promotion of the Import-Substitution Policy”*.

This edition of the Shippers' Newsletter will also throw light on the expert committee meeting of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) on the cost of transporting goods in African ports. This meeting was the follow-up to an initial working session held in June 2022 in Lagos, Nigeria.

Have an enjoyable reading !

Auguste Mbappe Penda
CNSC General Manager



- UASC reviews maritime transport costs ;
- Opening of CWEIC Hub for Cameroon and Gabon ;
- CNSC and APME train SMEs to promote the “made in Cameroon” brand ;
- IMO expert visits Douala Maritime Museum.

Cooperation

UASC reviews maritime transport costs

A CNSC delegation took part in the Accra working session

Convened from 23 to 28 April 2023, a Committee of Experts of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) met in Accra, Ghana, to carry out an in-depth review of the impact of maritime transport costs and other tariff practices on the passage of goods through ports in West and Central Africa, and on the activities of shippers. The objective of these working sessions is to propose appropriate measures for the reduction of maritime transport costs. A total of seven shippers' councils of UASC member countries took part in these meetings amongst which was Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Angola, Congo, Senegal and Cameroon. There for Cameroon, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) was represented by Mr. Nolga Fernand Douglas, Head of the CNSC Centre Regional Branch and Mr. Ngassa Nkengne Hermann, Sub Director of Statistics and the Transport Observatory.



UASC working session

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Shippers Authority (GSA), Mrs. Benonita Bismarck, chaired the opening ceremony of the Committee's working session. In her opening speech, she remarked that maritime transport costs in Africa was fast increasing and even more expensive for importers and exporters. During the session, the CNSC shared Cameroon's experience on the subject through a presentation on the different components that make up transport costs, logistics and the additional costs identified in the sub-region. The CNSC experts also delivered a presentation on the evolution of import transport costs for containerised goods in the period between the year 2000 and 2022, as well as the main port tariffs applied in the port of Douala. At the end of discussions, UASC informed the Committee that Cameroon will host the next session which will hold from 8 to 9 June 2023 in its economic capital, Douala.

Visit

A Special Guest at the Douala Maritime Museum

IMO expert, Laurent Galy, visits the Douala Maritime Museum

On 29 April 2023, the Douala Maritime Museum welcomed a special guest, Mr. Laurent Galy, an expert from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). He was accompanied by Mr. Nlend Jean, Director of Maritime Affairs and Inland Waterways at the Ministry of Transport. Having as tour guide Mr. Patrice Ekwalla, Chief of Service at the museum, Mr. Laurent Galy walked through all the different exhibitions which included paintings, pictures, artefacts and videos. The IMO expert was briefed on the traditions of Cameroon's coastal tribes, collectively called «Sawa». Various elements of the museum's exhibitions were used to help



IMO expert at the Douala Maritime Museum

him retrace German presence in Cameroon. Mr. Laurent Galy was also delighted to discover the International Maritime Organisation's IMO70 travelling exhibition on display at the museum. The said exhibition was offered to the Douala Maritime Museum in March 2019. A special gift from London, the exhibition marked the celebration of 70 years since the creation of the IMO under the theme **“Our Heritage: Better Shipping for a Better Future”**. Mr. Galy's visit and previous visits by other IMO experts are proof of the perfect collaboration that exists between the IMO and the Douala Maritime Museum.

Cooperation

Official opening of CWEIC-HUB for Cameroon and Gabon

CWEIC Chairman, Lord Jonathan Peter Marland, cut the symbolic ribbon

On 12 April 2023, Lord Jonathan Peter Marland inaugurated the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Hub (**CWEIC-Hub**) for Cameroon and Gabon in the presence of the Governor of the Littoral Region. The said Hub, located at the head office of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), is the first concrete realisation emanating from the institutional strategic partnership between the CNSC and CWEIC established on 16 November 2021. During the opening ceremony, Lord Marland urged business persons to take ownership of the missions of the CWEIC-Hub which will play a key role in facilitating trade and investment in the Central African sub-region.

The CWEIC-Hub for Cameroon and Gabon is headed by CNSC's Sub Director for Trade Promotion, Mr. Cham Etienne Bama, who was officially installed as the first Country Director of the CWEIC Hub for Cameroon and Gabon on 11 April 2023 in Yaoundé by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, in the presence of other members of Government and the

diplomatic corps.

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Hub in Douala is the 4th in Africa, after those opened in Ghana, Nigeria and recently in Kenya. The main mission of the hub is to coordinate the activities of CWEIC's strategic partners in the two countries and to receive expressions of interest from CWEIC's strategic partners in other Commonwealth member countries.

Formerly known as the Commonwealth Forum Council (**CFC**), the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council is a not-for-profit organisation with an official mandate from the Heads of State and Government of Commonwealth member countries. It is a business network based in London, England, which organises business forums, networking events and tailored investment programmes for its strategic partners around the world, thus accompanying them in their efforts towards emergence by offering more investment opportunities. This organisation is present in thirty countries and has about 100 strategic partners amongst which the Cameroon National Shippers' Council



Official opening of CWEIC Hub at CNSC's head office building