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Dear shippers,

This edition of the Shippers' Newsletter reports on key events during the month of September 2024 at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), Your Partner. The CNSC took an active part in the working session of the drafting committee for the new regional economic programme of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), and seized the opportunity to present some challenges faced by shippers so that these could be taken into account in the drafting of the new programme.

On the cooperation front, the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, received a trade mission from the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in Yaounde, with the assistance of the CNSC and CWEIC Hub for Cameroon-Gabon-Togo. The mission aimed to strengthen trade relations between Cameroon and India through new partnerships, in line with the import-substitution policy championed by the Cameroon government.

Finally, and as part of its efforts to assist SMEs, the CNSC recently organised a training session in Mbangassina, in the Centre region. The session was attended by female entrepreneurs specialising in the cassava sector, to help them better understand their relevance within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Have an enjoyable reading!

Auguste Mbatpe Penda
CNSC General Manager

CWEIC

CNSC USHERS CII DELEGATION TO THE PRIME MINISTRY



● **CEMAC: CNSC joins working session towards new economic programme in Douala**

● **CNSC takes part in the Abidjan forum for the sustainable development of transport in Africa**

● **CWEIC: Indian trade mission prospects in Cameroon**

● **Equato-Guinean official visits the Douala Maritime Museum**

● **AfCFTA: CNSC trains female cassava farmers in Mbangassina**

● **CNSC staff join sports walk to celebrate peace in Cameroon**

CEMAC

New economic programme in the pipeline

The CNSC joins working session in Douala .



CNSC GM at the ceremony

On 17 September 2024, the General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, was present at the opening ceremony of the inaugural meeting of the Committee of national and international experts for the drafting of the new CEMAC Regional Economic Programme. The meeting took place at the BEAC regional branch in Douala and was chaired by **H.E. Baltasar Engonga Edjo'o**, President of the CEMAC Commission. The purpose of the committee meeting was to draw up the new community development strategy for the CEMAC zone covering the period 2025-2050.

Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda's presence was in response to an invitation from the Permanent Secretariat of the CEMAC Economic and Financial Reform Programme (**PREF-CEMAC**), addressed to him as Chairman of the ad hoc Sub-Committee charged with implementing the Guided Trade Initiative of the African Continental Free Trade Area (**AfCFTA**).

In contribution to the deliberations, CNSC Sub-Director for Training and International Cooperation, **Mr. Telesphore Tonye**, delivered a presentation the next day 19 September at the BEAC regional branch in Douala. In addition to its missions, achievements, projects and efforts to promote foreign and intra-regional trade, it was an opportunity to highlight the difficulties encountered by shippers in their activities. The intention was to ensure that these difficulties are taken into account in the drafting of CEMAC's new Regional Economic Programme.

FORUM

The CNSC takes part in the proceedings

The event focused on the sustainable development of transport in Africa.



CNSC delegation

From 18 to 20 September 2024, the city of Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire hosted the 2024 Transport Forum organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the theme "**Africa on the Move-Accelerating Sustainable Transport and Logistics Connectivity**". The Forum brought together several African countries, including Cameroon. The Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) was represented at the event by **Mr. Nolga Fernand Douglas**, Director of Trade Facilitation and Transport Observatory, **Mrs. Maliki Aïcha**, Sub-Director for Trade Facilitation and **Mrs. Abdoulaye Oumoul**, Sub-Director for Shippers' Assistance.

Besides the participating countries, the forum was also attended by key decision-makers in Africa, international experts of the transport sector, and senior officials from public and private organisations. The forum mainly sought to present the current state of road, air and maritime connectivity between African States with a view to highlight innovative solutions in terms of infrastructure development, digitalisation, transport cost and time reduction, as well as other initiatives that could improve this connectivity and promote sustainable logistics in Africa.

Building on the success of the first edition held in 2015, this second edition of the Forum was closely aligned with the African Development Bank's new ten-year strategy and operational objectives, dubbed '**High 5**', for sustainable transport development across the continent.

Indian Trade Mission

Strategic meetings in Cameroon.



CII delegates at the CWEIC Hub

A delegation of Indian businessmen from the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), led by the High Commissioner of the Republic of India, **H.E. Vijay Khanduja**, was received on 20 September 2024 in Yaoundé by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, **H.E. Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute**. They were accompanied by **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) and Chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Hub for Cameroon, Gabon and Togo.

The discussions focused mainly on sectors of interest to Indian companies. The aim was to explore opportunities to strengthen trade relations between Cameroon and India, create new business partnerships and gain a better understanding of local market trends. This visit to Cameroon was in line with the import-substitution policy advocated by the Cameroon government.

A high-profile guest aboard

Equato-Guinean official on tour at the museum.



Equato-Guinean minister steers the navigation simulator

Equatorial Guinea's Minister of State for Finance, Economy and Planning, **Mr. Lima Gabriel Mbaga Obiang**, was in Douala on 26 September 2024 and decided to visit the Douala Maritime Museum. Upon his arrival, he was warmly welcomed by **Mr. Dippah Kayesse**, Head of the Public Relations Unit at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC).

Throughout his tour, the Equato-Guinean Minister of State was guided around the exhibition halls by museum staff. He was visibly very impressed by the exhibitions and their history, particularly the origins of the word «**Kaba**», a loose women's garment derived from the German word «**Cover**».

Going beyond these artefacts, the Minister of State and his retinue were amazed by the museum's digital attractions: the Storm Room, the maritime navigation simulator and the museum's virtual tour booth. The high-profile guest ended his tour with warm words of praise to CNSC's General Manager, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, for this wonderful achievement.



AfCFTA

Capacity building

CNSC trains female cassava farmers in Mbangassina.



Participants of the workshop

The second of four capacity-building phases for female entrepreneurs specialising in cassava production and processing in Mbangassina was conducted from 23 to 28 September 2024 in the Centre region. This is an initiative taken within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), a technical partner of the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA), is playing a key role in this project, which was attended by some 50 women. The programme features presentations and practical sessions on the plantations.

Mrs. Armelle Belibi Makasso, Service Head for export assistance at the CNSC, delivered a presentation on 'Women in the AfCFTA'. She was joined by **Mr. Junior Sone Makoge**, Assistant Service Head for Import Assistance, who outlined procedures for exporting to the AfCFTA market.

Celebration

Celebrating peace

YCNSC takes an active role.



CNSC staff join sports walk for peace

On 28 September 2024, the staff of the Central Regional Branch of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) took part in a sports walk through the streets of Yaoundé. Led by the Branch Manager **Mr. Philippe Olivier Owono**, the staff wore T-shirts bearing the inscription '**For Peace in Cameroon/ Pour la paix au Cameroun**' courtesy of CNSC's General Manager **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, a fervent advocate for peace and unity.

This walk was organised by the National Unity Foundation (FUN) and formed part of the celebrations marking the 3rd edition of National Peace Days in Cameroon. About 500 people from all walks of life turned out to take part, covering a distance of 10km through the streets of Yaoundé. The peace walk ended at the Independence Square where Cameroon's national anthem, a symbol of national unity, was sung.

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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, **Website** : www.cncc.cm.

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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.

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Paris Office - France

3, Rue du Quatre-septembre, 75002, Paris
Tel. : +33 (0) 42 61 79 24
representation@cncc.cm

Kribi Office

Ngoye, Opposite TRADEX
Tel. : (237) 222 46 16 37 Kribi
antennesud@cncc.cm

Limbe Office

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

Centre Regional Office - Yaounde

Tel. : 237 222 220 283, 222 220 284, 222 220 285
antennecentre@cncc.cm

Far North Regional Office - Kousseri

Tel. : 696 12 99 13
antenneextremenord@cncc.cm

