

CULTURE

Douala Maritime Museum hosts conference

“Heritage and restitution: what are museums for today ?”

This was the theme of the conference organised at the Douala Maritime Museum on 25 February 2023 by **H.E Jean-Luc Martinez**, French Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation and Heritage at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, as well as former Director of the Louvre Museum in France. He was welcomed to the Douala Maritime Museum (DMM) by **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) promoter of the museum. After a guided tour of the Museum, the French Ambassador spent nearly two hours with the public in the multi-purpose conference room elaborating on the importance of museums. In his presentation, H.E. Jean-Luc Martinez defined the role of museums today in three main aspects: bringing cultures into dialogue;

reconciling the past to write a shared history of peoples; and protecting heritage while advocating for peace. As far as the restitution of heritage is concerned, the French Ambassador

recalled that in accordance with the promise made by the French President, **H.E. Emmanuel Macron**, in his 2018 speech in Ouagadougou, the restitution of Africa's heritage has already begun thanks to the law of 24 December 2020 authorising the return of some



Group picture at the DMM

of the heritage of Senegal and Benin still found in France. The former President-Director of the Louvre Museum announced that the next country to benefit from this restitution policy will be Côte d'Ivoire and that as far as Cameroon is concerned, the restitution process is already underway.

The Shippers' Newsletter

Cameroon National Shippers' Council's publication

Head Office : Centre des Affaires Maritimes, Bonanjo, Douala.

P.O. Box 1588, Douala.

Tél. : (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 : Luc Ndob, Stella Nkama

Junior Okoumama, Fabien Il Amougou, Jean Marcel Hell,

Ismaila Moustapha.

Translation : Agwagwa Christopher Viyih, Njume Randolph Metuge.

Printer : Harmony Poly Business.

Paris Office - France

3, Rue du Quatre-septembre, 75002, Paris
Tél. : +33 (0) 42 61 79 24

representation@cncc.cm

Kribi Office

Ngoye, Opposite TRADEX
Tél. : (237) 222 46 16 37 Kribi

antennesud@cncc.cm

Limbe Office

3rd Floor, CDC Credit Union Head Office
Tél. : (237) 233 33 21 36 / 233 33 21 38 Limbe

swregionaloffice@cncc.cm

Centre Regional Office - Yaoundé

Tél. : 237 222 220 283, 222 220 284, 222 220 285

antennecentre@cncc.cm

Far North Regional Office - Kousséri

Tél. : 696 12 99 13

antenneextremenord@cncc.cm





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Free



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Dear shippers,

Addressing the nation on 31 December 2022, the Head of State called for a continuation of the import-substitution policy and the promotion of the **"Made in Cameroon"** brand. These key messages from the President of the Republic brought about innovations in the 2023 Finance Law for Cameroon.

It is against this backdrop that the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) kicked off the year 2023 with a training session that focused on the subtleties of these innovations. To promote the **"Made in Cameroon"** brand, the CNSC has held working sessions with major players in local production such as the Cameroon Business Women's Association (GFAC) and the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry (CAPEF).

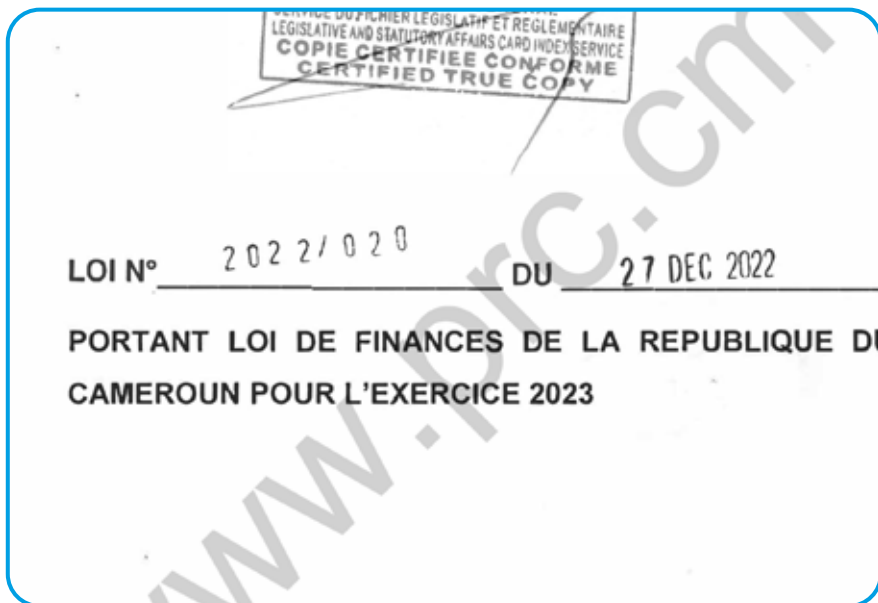
This edition of the Shipper's Newsletter will revisit many other news-making activities of the CNSC, particularly the conference organised at the Douala Maritime Museum themed **"Heritage and restitution: what are museums for today?"**

Have an enjoyable reading !

Auguste Mbappe Penda
CNSC General Manager

THE 2023 FINANCE LAW

THE CNSC OFFERS TRAINING TO SHIPPERS



- FOREIGN TRADE INNOVATIONS IN 2023;
- CCO'PAD TURNS 20;
- CNSC MEETS WITH GFAC AND CAPEF;
- CNSC STAFF RECEIVE TRAINING ON WORKPLACE FIRE FIGHTING TECHNIQUES;
- DOUALA MARITIME MUSEUM HOSTS CONFERENCE.

SEMINAR

Foreign Trade Innovations in 2023

The CNSC raises awareness among foreign trade actors on the innovations of the 2023 finance law

On 16 February 2023, the training hall of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) hosted an awareness raising seminar on "**Foreign Trade Innovations**". The main objective of the seminar was to inform the public on the changes brought about by the 2023 finance law so as to optimise the performance of foreign trade actors. Spanning over a period of two days, the seminar was chaired by CNSC's General Manager, Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda.

The five (05) experts invited to present during the seminar included Mrs. Line-Chimène Gueyito Fonkou, Head of the CNSC Statistics and Data Processing Service at the **CNSC**; Mr. Kwedi Nyamsi Jean Damien, Senior Inspector of Customs, **Littoral Customs Sector I Control Brigade**; Mr. Talla Guy of Cameroon Customs; Dr. Yepka Joseph Achille who works for **MINEPIA**, and Blaise Talla from **SOREPCO**.

A decline in foreign trade volumes, the Russo-Ukrainian war and the drastic rise in the cost of petroleum products are some of the reasons that

account for the implementation of the new finance law. This law anchors on the import-substitution policy in a bid to encourage local production as prescribed in Cameroon's National Development Strategy (**NDS 30**).

Some of the innovations include: tax relief and tax exemption for imports of machinery and raw materials not locally available and the prohibition or increase of customs duties for the export of local raw materials (**wood, cocoa, etc.**). The list also features tax relief or tax exemption for exports of locally produced goods like

soap, chocolate, etc... In the agricultural sector, a series of tax relief mechanisms were put in place including exemptions from business registration, VAT on agricultural inputs and equipment, exemption from registration fees on transfers of farmlands and loan agreements, exemption from property tax on farmlands, and exemptions from tax and employer's contributions on salaries paid to seasonal agricultural workers.



Participants at the seminar

SEMINAR

Fire fighting !

CNSC staff receive training on workplace fire fighting techniques

In compliance with article 128 of Decree No. 039 /MTPS /IMT of 26 November 1984 laying down general health and safety measures in the workplace, the Management of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) organised a workshop to sensitise its staff on workplace fire fighting techniques. Staff in attendance were trained on what to do in the event of the need for a rapid

evacuation of the building and on how to properly use fire-fighting equipment. Under the supervision of Mr. Mochame Amadou, Head of the Fire fighting Unit at the Yaoundé Nsimalen International Airport, the participants discovered the different types of fires and their respective extinguishing agents. The workshop ended with fire extinction drills.



Practical fire extinction tryouts

CELEBRATION

CCO'PAD turns 20

The institution celebrated its 20th anniversary on 8 and 9 February at the PAD Club

On behalf of his Minister, HRH Mveimani Sombo Amba, Secretary General at the Ministry of Transport, launched activities marking the 20th anniversary of the Advisory Steering Committee of the Port Authority of Douala (**CCO'PAD**). He was assisted in this exercise by the Chairman of the said Committee Mr. Alain Malong, the Deputy General Manager of the Port Authority of Douala, Charles Michaux Moukoko Njoh and several General Managers of companies within the Douala port area including Mr. Auguste MBAPPE PENDA and Mr. Younouss Soungui respectively General and Deputy General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**). The celebration was also attended by prominent figures of CCO'PAD presenting on different

themes during the conference. Two books outlining the activities of CCO'PAD, namely CCO PAD in 23 lessons (**Le CCO'PAD en 23 Leçons**) and the Compendium of Memos (Recueil des Avis) were published for public information.

Created by Presidential Decree of 15 June 1999, CCO'PAD's purpose is to create a forum where actors of the port sector can collaborate, so as to be able to iron out differences encountered in their business relations. CCO'PAD regularly publishes two documents namely the "**Observation Notes**" which outlines the

concerns of actors in the port area at a given point in time and "**Memos**" by the Committee on important issues relating to port activities. Since its creation, it has been able to come up with 105 memos.



Group picture

WORKING SESSION

CNSC meets with GFAC and CAPEF

A powerful delegation from the CNSC led by its General Manager visited the head office of these institutions in Yaoundé.

It all started on 7 February 2023 at the Cameroon Business Women's Association (**GFAC**) located at Ngoa Ekele (Yaoundé) where Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) was received by Mrs. Agnes Ntube, née Ndjock, Senator and President of GFAC. In her welcome address, GFAC's President expressed her gratitude to CNSC's General Manager for the assistance given to GFAC towards its enrolment as a strategic partner of the Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council (**CWEIC**). After giving his opening remarks, the General Manager gave the floor to Mrs. Onana Takouchop Claire, Director of Shippers' Assistance (**DAC**) to present the missions and achievements of the CNSC. Emphasis was put on the new approach adopted to assist shippers, which involves working in close collaboration with associations and groups of entrepreneurs in order to provide their members with the necessary information on issues related to their import-export activities. The

objective is to tailor the assistance provided to members according to their specific needs and to help them to successfully carry out their foreign trade activities.

On that same day, the CNSC team also visited the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry of Cameroon (**CAPEF**) where it was welcomed by Mr. Martin Paul Mindjos Momeny, President of CAPEF. Discussions at this meeting centred on the establishment of a partnership based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the CNSC and CAPEF. The main spheres of collaboration will be the improvement of the economic situation of CAPEF members. The MoU will focus on the construction of food storage



Group picture

warehouses in CNSC trucker facilities; the facilitation of food transport from production to distribution points; the development of cargo storage facilities in compliance with known standards; the assistance and protection of the interests of CAPEF members; capacity building of CAPEF members and the promotion of the "Made in Cameroon" brand.