



IORA Training Programme on
"Enhancing Sustainable Port Services and Management in the Indian Ocean region for improved Maritime Connectivity"
12 – 14 July 2017
Mutsamudu Anjouan, Comoros

Press Release



The President of the Union of Comoros, His Excellency Azali Assoumani inaugurated the IORA Training Programme on "*Enhancing Sustainable Port Services and Management in the Indian Ocean region for improved Maritime Connectivity*", held in Mutsumudu - Anjouan Island from 12 – 14 July 2017. The training was also honoured by the presence of His Excellency Abdoullah Said Sarouma, the Vice President in charge of Transportation of Comoros, as well as members of Blue Economy committee of Comoros, and local dignitaries of Anjouan Island

In his Keynote Address, His Excellency Abdoullah Said Sarouma highlighted the importance of this initiative for future development of the maritime industry in Comoros. With the current ambition of Comoros to make the port as a tool for development, he also stressed on the commitment of Comoros to promote cooperation with IORA Member States for the sustainable port development and management for better maritime connectivity. In addition, he pointed out the current Blue Economy development in Comoros, including the setting up of the National Agency for Maritime Affairs.

The training programme saw the participation of 9 IORA Member States mainly People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Seychelles, and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The deliberations of the above topics were substantiated through the intervention of a number of regional experts in the field of ports and the key recommendations of the event included *inter alia*: enhance human resources and skill development in port services and management; share best practices in ship registration and port

logistics; enhance knowledge in environmental protection and management in ports; develop infrastructure and procedures with regard to maritime connectivity according to international standards; promote research and development in the port development sector; and explore the possibility to establish an IORA Port Services Network to improve best services. A field visit to the Comoros Port also enabled participants to learn about the port practices in Comoros. The deliberations of the above topics were substantiated through the intervention of a number of regional experts in the field of ports and the key recommendations of the event.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Inzouddine thanked the active participation of the delegates which contributed to the success of this training programme. He highlighted that, though our countries are different in terms of size, knowledge, capacity and wealth, we can all come together for economic development. The discussions were fruitful and will help us to go forward to further enhance sustainable port services and management in the Indian Ocean region for improved maritime connectivity.

14 July 2017