

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INAUGURAL AFRICA MARITIME JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE (AMJOC)

29 -30 JANUARY, 2016

ACCRA - GHANA

PREAMBLE

The Africa Maritime Journalists Conference (AMJOC) is the premier continent-wide platform dedicated to excellence and professionalism in the reportage and broadcast of maritime news from Africa to the world.

AMJOC is conceived as an annual capacity building forum - to encourage peer review, promote best practices and information exchanges between maritime media practitioners; foster solidarity and goodwill between the media and all segments of the maritime industry.

Conference Objectives:

- Promote best practices and professionalism among maritime media practitioners
- Set agenda and encourage peer review by maritime states and institutions in Africa
- Encourage research and use of modern communication tools
- Foster friendship and exchanges among maritime media players and businesses
- Provide excellent networking and matchmaking opportunities for industry stakeholders

ABOUT 2016 AMJOC

The 2016 Africa Maritime Journalists Conference, which is the inaugural edition, was a two day event, held on 29th and 30th January 2016, at the Coconut Groove Regency Hotel, Accra – Ghana.

The conference theme was **“Building Effective Communication Infrastructure for Africa’s Blue Economy”**, attracted very senior as well as young maritime journalists aside a rich array of industry operators and professionals, academicians, non-governmental and civil society groups.

The conference was supported by the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC), Westblue Consulting Limited, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) and Global Cargo and Commodities (Ghana) Limited. The event was managed by West Coast Business Support Services.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony kicked off on Friday 29th January 2016, at 1030hrs with a Welcome Address by **Mr. LanreBadmus**, Convener and Chairman of AMJOC Organising Committee.

His address was followed by Goodwill Messages – the first by **Dr. Affail Monney**, President of Ghana Journalists Association (GJA). Next to speak was the Honourable Minister of Communications, His Excellency, **Dr. Moane Boamah**.

There was a short interlude to acknowledge some of the special guests and resource persons. This was followed by the presentation of the Keynote Address by Her Excellency, **Honourable (Mrs.) Joyce Bawah Mogtari**, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Transport. The Deputy Minister was ably represented by Mr. Selby Twumasi-Ankra – the Chief Director, Ministry of Transport. Her address was titled “Maritime Media as Vessel for Africa's Economic Transformation”.

The Opening Ceremony came to a close with a photo session, followed by short break for refreshments.

TECHNICAL SESSION

The technical session commenced at 1205hrs, chaired by **Mr. Magnus Teye Addico**, former Secretary General of the Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa (MOWCA).

Presentations:

“Effective Media to Business Relations in the Maritime Industry: Methods and Tactics” by **Mr. Hassan Bello** – Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigerian Shippers Council

“Maritime Policy Development and its Impact on Africa's Economy” by **Mr. Micheal Luguje** – Secretary General of the Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA)

Participants were also addressed by the following Resource Persons:

Mr. Richard Anamoo – Director General of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), represented by Mr. Nii Nikoi Amasa. He spoke on “Ports Development and its Impact on Africa's Economy”.

Mr. Wale Adeniyi – Deputy Comptroller of Customs and National Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS). He spoke on “Maritime Domain Awareness – Role of the Media”.

Capt. William Amanhyia - Executive Secretary of Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF). He spoke on “Africa's Blue Economy and Contemporary Maritime Media”.

Mr. Abraham Mensah – General Manager, Operations at Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA). He dwelled also on “Maritime Domain Awareness – Role of the Media”.

Vice Chancellor of the Regional Maritime University (RMU) Ghana, represented **by Capt. William Wricketts**– Head, Maritime Safety Department at the University, he spoke on “Capacity Building and Institutional Support for Maritime Media in Africa”.

Mr. Ignatius Nweke – Deputy Director, Public Affairs at the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC), he spoke on “Ethics and Professionalism in Maritime Media Practice”.

RESOLUTIONS

Delegates and industry stakeholders resolved and adopted the following:

- African countries should embrace well thought-out policies and provide the enabling environment through effective and growth oriented legislations and incentives that will lead to a win-win outcome for the country and investors.
- African countries are enjoined to take steps to delimit their maritime boundaries, to avoid unnecessary territorial disputes in the future.
- State and non-state agencies in the maritime industry should embrace a collaborative approach to resolving common challenges in the sector. A co-coordinating structure or platform that promotes synergy for improved productivity and efficiency should be put in place.
- The media should appreciate the socio-cultural issues arising from the activities related to the marine environment and not just the economic benefits.
- Maritime journalists and content owners should exhibit high ethical standard and professionalism in the conduct of their affairs, to endear them to other stakeholders and the society at large.
- Maritime media practitioners should raise awareness and get those in authority to appreciate and give quality attention to the maritime industry.
- African maritime journalists should come together and leverage on their collective strength, so as to influence developments and policies in the sector.

- The maritime media should support efforts to bring down high transit cost, clearance time, corruption and other challenges plaguing the maritime industry in Africa.
- Recent advances in the digital media should be embraced by maritime journalists to improve the quality and content of their reportage.
- Maritime agencies and corporate entities should invest in the training and retraining of maritime media practitioners, to build their capacity and enhance their ability to report the industry better.
- The Africa Maritime Journalists Conference (AMJOC) should facilitate the establishment of a continent-wide association, as a mother body for maritime media practitioners in Africa, which would promote professionalism and members' welfare among other responsibilities.
- Maritime media in Africa should promote gender based issues and support the female gender in a male dominated industry.

FORMATION OF AFRICAN MARITIME JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (AMJA)

In line with one of the resolutions adopted at the conference, on the need to establish a continent-wide association or forum for maritime journalists in Africa, delegates resolved to elect a four member executive committee that will promote the objectives and benefits of the conference across the continent, at regional and national levels.

Delegates at the first day of the conference endorsed the recommendation that such an executive team should reflect the pan African nature of the conference, and run the Association pending when other necessary arrangements are in place. Nigeria is to host the AMJA Secretariat.

The four offices considered were: President - allotted to Nigeria; Vice President allotted to Southern Africa; General Secretary allotted to Eastern Africa; and Treasurer allotted to the host country Ghana.

Delegates met on the second day of the conference to consider and adopt the following nominees as proposed:

- 🇳🇮 President - Nigeria – Mr. SesanOnileimo, Publisher of Shipping Position Daily Newspaper and Producer of Shipping Position Live on Radio

- 🌍 Vice President - South Africa – Ms. Colleen Jacka, Editor of Maritime Review Africa
- 🌍 General Secretary - Kenya - Mr. George Sunguh, Editor of Our Ports Magazine and Communication Executive for Port Management Association for Eastern and Southern Africa
- 🌍 Treasurer - Ghana - Grace Nana EsiBoateng, Presenter of Maritime and Port News on Radio

All the nominees were unanimously endorsed and duly elected for the offices allotted.

About AMJA

The African Maritime Journalists Association (AMJA) will operate as a non-governmental, not for profit organization, open to all practicing maritime media journalists based in Africa.

AMJA will represent members' interests at the continental level, while the establishment of national bodies will be encouraged in all AU member countries, to advance the goals of AMJA at that level.

AMJA will promote the interests and welfare of its members, encourage information and knowledge sharing as well as foster goodwill between the media and other stakeholders in the maritime sub-sector.

Signed:

LanreBadmus

Chairman - AMJOC Organising Committee

www.amjoc.net

8th February, 2016