

MISSION REPORT

STAFF MEMBER ON MISSION:	Paul A. Were Economic Affairs Officer Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
PURPOSE OF MISSION:	(i) To work with a survey team on restructuring of the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa and (ii) To participate in the Executive Committee Meeting of PMAESA and to present a report on problems of land-locked countries to the meeting
VENUE OF MISSION:	Mombasa, Kenya
MISSION DATES:	7-18 June 1999
CITATION OR ACTIVITY:	Operational activity (Advisory services to PMAESA)

As part of PMAESA activities, the Secretariat hosted also the Executive Committee of the Cruise Indian Ocean Association (CIOA) which was held at the same venue from 14 to 15 June 1999. Both PMAESA and IOCA have the same Executive Council members, the ECA representative, therefore, participated in the IOCA meeting as well.

III. Activities Undertaken during the Mission

(a) Participation in the work of a special committee for restructuring of PMAESA (7-11 June 1999)

The ECA representative participated in the one week exercise for restructuring of PMAESA. The restructuring was carried out according to the terms of reference that was prepared by ECA. The ECA representative was more involved in the part of restructuring dealing with the establishment of the permanent committees for PMAESA. The committee approach was important because ECA is spearheading the creation of Pan-African Association for Port Cooperation and since the other two port management associations are already operating on Committee basis, it was important that PMAESA follows the same system. This aspect of restructuring was at the same time a useful component of harmonization of operations of the sub-regional port management association. The permanent committee system was accepted and it is agreed that PMAESA will from the year 2000 operate with under eight committee and sub-committees as shown under section 5 of survey team report (See Annex II).

The report clearly indicates the scope and coverage restructuring as agreed upon by the Committee members. All proposals made including the restructuring of the PMAESA policy organs (Section 7), proposals on issues affecting the Secretariat, including possibilities for resource mobilization (section 8) are all spelled out in the report of the survey team.

(b) Participation in the second Executive Committee Meeting for the Indian Ocean Cruise Association (14 and 15 June, 1999)

The Indian Ocean Cruise Association (IOCA) is an initiative of PMAESA. It was officially launched at the founding meeting held in St. Denis, Reunion Island on 19 October, 1998. PMAESA has been working hard since 1993 to promote the sub-region as a worthwhile cruise destination. In 1997, it was resolved that the Association's initiative in marketing the region as an attractive cruise destination was to be pursued further through the formation of an Indian Ocean n Cruise Association. The Association is composed of Port Authorities and National Tourism Boards in the sub-region. The interim headquarters of the Association is in St. Denis in Reunion Island.

The ECA representative participated in this meeting by virtue of the fact that it was held between two PMAESA meetings - the PMAESA restructuring and the 19th Executive Committee Meeting. The agenda of the meeting and summary report on decisions reached at the two-day meeting are attached as Annex III to this report.

It should be noted that the Committee resolved that ECA should be the depository of IOCA constitution, which was prepared at the IOCA meeting. The Secretary-General/Chairman of the Association will make a formal request to that effect to the ECA Executive Secretary after the text of the constitution is finalized in both English and French languages.

(c) Participation in the 19th Executive Committee Meeting of PMAESA (16-18 June 1999)

Participation at this meeting was in response to an invitation received from PMAESA requesting ECA to present to the Committee a document on problems faced by land-locked countries. ECA participated in the meeting also as a member of the survey team for restructuring of PMAESA. The request was made as one of the recommendations of the Council Meeting which was held in Djibouti in December 1997. One presentation on problems of land-locked countries was made at that meeting by a representative of Djibouti, using the country's experience with the Ethiopian traffic that pass through Djibouti port. That presentation was good, but was found limited because the Djibouti/Ethiopia corridor has special transit problems, which are only specific to that corridor itself. The Council Meeting, therefore recommended that a general paper be prepared on the subject, and ECA was recently requested to prepare such a paper for presentation to the Executive Committee Meeting. A document titled "Transit Problems of Land-locked African Countries (ECA/RCID/029/99 of June 1999)" was prepared by the ECA representative and presented to the meeting as was requested. A copy of the document is attached as Annex IV to this report. The coverage of the document was mainly partly based on findings and recommendations of some exercises on the subject which were carried out in the past by ECA under UNCTADA II. The bulk of the document was derived from the updating of recommendations of UNCTAD global meetings held in 1995 and 1997 in New York on problems of land-locked and transit developing countries. ECA had participated in the two meetings to present the African perspectives on transit transport problems of land-locked countries.

The presentation and its recommendations was very well received and the committee resolved that the document be used as the base for the preparation of the terms of reference for the PMAESA permanent committee on land-locked transit countries. It was also agreed that ECA would become a member of that committee.

The ECA representative informed the Committee about progress made in the establishment of the proposed Pan-African Association for Port Cooperation (PAPC) and the status of the constitution of PAPC. Following brief discussions held on the scope constitution for the proposed continental Association, the Meeting resolved that there is a need for the harmonization of the PMAESA constitution with that of PAPC, therefore membership of the Permanent Constitution and By-laws Committee of PMAESA should include ECA.

The ECA representative also briefed the Committee on the forthcoming ECA/World Bank/ADB workshop on restructuring in transport and communications, and informed the meeting that contacts with selected PMAESA Port Authorities on the subject will be made by ECA at later date.

A document of PMAESA data base which was to be presented by a representative of DISD was not available. DISD was invited to the meeting but did not respond. The document was to be prepared in 1998 and DISD missions conducted to Mombasa and Djibouti in 1998.

A summary report of the meeting including its agenda and list of participants is as Annex V to this report. The final report of the meeting will be forwarded to ECA by PMAESA secretariat at a later date.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The work carried out by the team for PMAESA restructuring was very successful so it received full support of the Executive Committee meeting. However, the team could not recommend any change in current PMAESA staffing because of budgetary constraints. To compensate for limitations in professional staff, PMAESA will network for the time being with the member ports and another NGOs dealing with ports development in the sub-region.

It is therefore recommended that ECA should continue within available resources to backstop activities of PMAESA. The immediate follow-up activity is for ECA to assist in the preparation of TORs for the proposed PMAESA permanent committees.

2. The IOCA is the newest maritime Association in the sub-region. Current statistics of cruise ships visiting ports in the sub-region indicate that cruise ships tourism is already an industry that can contribute to the development of the general tourism activities and economies in the sub-region.