PRESS RELEASES

Specialised Training on Tankers and Bulk Carriers

Freetown, Sierra Leone | 20 - 22 October 2026 | Social media posts & general press releases

The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for West and Central Africa (Abuja MoU) has commenced the implementation of its capacity-building project, **"Enhancing Maritime Safety and Sustainability in the West and Central African Region,"** supported by Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF). A significant milestone in the project's implementation was the successful delivery of the **Specialised Training on Tankers and Bulk Carriers for Port State Control Officers (PSCOs)**, held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 20 to 22 October 2026.

The training marked the first in a series of specialised capacity-building programmes and workshops envisaged under the project agreement between the Abuja MoU and the Foundation. The initiative aims to strengthen the technical competencies of PSCOs, enhance compliance with international maritime conventions and promote effective and harmonised Port State Control inspections to combat substandard shipping across West and Central Africa.

The programme brought together PSCOs from sixteen (16) participating Member States, reflecting the region's commitment to strengthening maritime safety through professional development and regional cooperation. Provision is also envisaged for extending training opportunities to other Member States as they commence active Port State Control inspections during the project period.

A notable feature of the training was the participation of female PSCOs, underscoring the importance of promoting gender inclusion and greater representation of women in maritime inspection and enforcement activities.

Building on the outcomes of this inaugural training, subsequent phases of the project will incorporate further specialised technical training, mentorship programmes and leadership development initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Port State Control operations in the region.

With its emphasis on practical inspection competencies, knowledge transfer and regional collaboration, the programme represents an important step towards establishing a more effective, resilient and future-ready Port State Control regime, while advancing the shared commitment of the Abuja MoU and Lloyd's Register Foundation to maritime safety and sustainability across West and Central Africa.

#AbujaMoU #PortStateControl #MaritimeTraining #MaritimeSafety

About Lloyd's Register Foundation

Lloyd's Register Foundation is an independent global safety charity that supports research, innovation and education to make the world a safer place. Its mission is to use the best evidence and insight to help the global community focus on tackling the world's most pressing safety and risk challenges.

About the Abuja MoU

The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for the West and Central African Region (Abuja MoU) is a regional Port State Control regime covering 22 countries from Mauritania to South Africa. Its purpose is to strengthen maritime safety, security, environmental protection, and seafarer welfare across the West and Central African region. It seeks to eliminate substandard shipping by promoting effective and harmonised implementation of Port State Control among member states. The Abuja MoU supports the adoption and enforcement of relevant IMO and ILO instruments as the basis for regional inspection standards. Its broader vision is to position the region as one of the leading MoUs globally, committed to a lasting culture of safe, compliant, and environmentally responsible shipping.

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