



RENCONTRES AIVP OCÉAN INDIEN AIVP INDIAN OCEAN DAYS

8-9 NOV 2018 - LE PORT (LA RÉUNION)

In partnership with / en partenariat avec :



SUMMARY

BACKGROUND - After the Indian Ocean City Observatory for Ports and Cities (IOO) closed down, Philippe Matthis, President of AIVP, put forward a proposal to the organisation's Board of Directors in 2016, to build on the work undertaken and continue putting the research and documents produced to good use. As a result, a decision was taken to set up the Indian Ocean working group, as part of AIVP. This is the first regional group of its kind. AIVP's network in the Indian Ocean zone is currently made up of seven countries and 17 active members, drawn from the three sections.

The working group is based on AIVP's firm belief that regional cooperation must be improved in order to tackle global issues (climate, biodiversity, etc.), and represents a major asset in the development of new activities in port regions and cities. Although port cities vary considerably in size and are often in competition with each other, they can still work together effectively in many areas and capitalise on the wide experiences of AIVP's different members (city-port planning and integration, industrial and logistical cooperation, cruise industry, education and training, etc.).



Inaugural AIVP Indian Ocean Days: good participation

The first ever AIVP Indian Ocean Days took place on 8 and 9 November 2018, in the city of Le Port, on the island of Réunion. The event was attended by 104 participants and 11 organisations, members of AIVP, from South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Seychelles, and France, including both metropolitan France and Réunion, which was strongly represented (with 76 of the delegates based in Réunion).

The aim of the conference was to **bring together the members**, forge links between them, and provide a forum for **discussing current projects** in the port cities of the Indian Ocean zone, to **better understand** the local issues in the region, which is globally and strategically vital, as highlighted by Gaetan Siew (Mauritius) in his opening keynote speech.

The presentations and debates offered an insight into the dynamics at work in the port cities of the Indian Ocean, whether in terms of urban-port development issues, local and regional development in connection with port activity, or the need for better education and training for the careers of the future.

However, the event was also intended to lay the groundwork for collective action between AIVP and its partners and active members in the Indian Ocean zone, designed to contribute actively to the sustainable development of every port community, based on the new **AIVP 2030 Agenda** presented at our most recent international conference in Quebec.

In addition to the suggestions put forward by some of the speakers or during the debates, a questionnaire was also distributed to gauge the expectations of the participants, their personal contributions, and ideas for ways of building on the work achieved at these Indian Ocean Days. The feedback received, both in terms of topics covered and potential partnerships, is summarised below.

Priority topics

Four key areas:

- Joint planning, integration, and city-port interface projects
- Port projects and development
- Environment
- Human capital, education and training

Joint planning, integration, and city-port interface projects

This topic, along with the issue of port developments, is the top priority for those surveyed, in terms not just of **governance** and **city-port relations**, but also the need for information and discussion about city-port interface projects themselves, often from a more specific perspective such as landscape planning. This goes hand in hand with interest in the development of city-port governance seen in AIVP's work, as highlighted by Olivier Lemaire (AIVP) in the second session. From this standpoint, initiatives like the one presented by Nathi Mthethwa (City of Richards' Bay) on the **MoU between the City of Richards Bay, Transnet and Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, can provide inspiration for other members of the group**. It represents one of the possible responses to the need for changes in city-port governance and integrated planning, as identified by Eric Apelgren (Head of International and Governance Relations, City of Durban) in the third session, with "*The Blueprint of the Port must talk to the Blueprint of the City*".

In his speech on the MoU, Nathi Mthethwa pointed out that when he and his colleagues had attended the 2015 AIVP Days even in Dublin on the theme of the working waterfront, there were no real relations between the signatories to the MoU. This observation again highlights the **value of sharing experiences at the Conferences and other events organised by AIVP**.

Port projects and development

The questionnaire reflected an interest in **port projects generally**, often considered in terms of one particular aspect (project design, relations with partners, especially financiers, and management of publicly owned port land). Other expectations concern specific sectors of port activity (ship repair, risk management, ship maintenance, safety, etc.) or the need for more economic data (statistics, trade in the zone, etc.).

Other issues raised include: economic development (expressed in very general terms), the blue economy and the cruise sector.

The environment

This topic was not covered specifically as part of a dedicated session at the event. It was, however, the subject of a specific study by the IOO and remains a major area of interest, expressed in broad terms: “sustainable development goals”, “climate change”, “environmental measures”, etc. The specific issue of waste management was mentioned three times in the survey.

Human capital, education and training

These issues were raised during the debate after the first session by the three contributors (City of Le Port, Grant Port Maritime, Territoire Côte Ouest): the **need** to be able to meet the needs of a **constantly changing** maritime requires us to **anticipate developments in careers**. This notably means developing and/or creating the necessary infrastructures. The **creation of the Port Center** (incidentally, these three local partners officially signed the Port Center Missions Charter during the event) satisfies this requirement, by raising awareness of these careers and the way they are changing. Other examples include the **creation of the “Lycée de la mer”** (high school specialising in maritime studies) in 2021, formalised by the Region of Réunion, or the training courses now considered to be an essential part of cooperation programmes such as the Odyssey scheme presented by the Territoire Côte Ouest.

These issues were of course also highlighted by the speakers during session 4, which focused on human capital. Two initiatives were suggested for the AIVP Indian Ocean group in this area.

- Mpilo Mgubane (Head at eThekweni Municipality Academy (EMA) and CIFAL Durban Director) stressed the **importance of cooperation and partnerships** and part of a **new approach to education and training**. He believes that **AIVP and the Indian Ocean group would have a role to play** in this.
- Narad Dawoodarry (Director of Administrative and Legal Services, Mauritius Ports Authority) suggested an **AIVP training project targeted at accreditation of prior learning**. He also believes that, given the increasing place of women in port and maritime careers, an **international network of women professionals in the Indian Ocean** could be created, and could work with the international branch on programmes and exchanges.

Possible actions for the Indian Ocean group

- Sharing experience and best practices
- Creating a collaborative platform

For developing benchmarking, collective intelligence, and innovation

Sharing experience is the **number one priority** identified by those surveyed, when questioned about the **types of actions to be taken** by the Indian Ocean group. Respondents indicated that experience could be shared in a variety of different ways, such as seminars, exchange programmes, and visits and tours. One notable suggestion was to **share information about perceived successes**, while it was also proposed that planning and development professionals should be invited to contribute to these exchanges. Some of those surveyed expressed a desire to see **presentations of concrete solutions and be given the opportunity to ascertain whether could be transferred to their own situation and contexts**. There is also a demand for **case studies** and the ability to present current strategic visions of urban planning.

This sharing of experiences is also expected to take the form of discussions between members of the Indian Ocean group and, more specifically, via a medium described as an “**interactive think tank**” focusing on pre-identified shared issues and problems”. This proposal overlapped with the suggestion of a **collaborative platform**. The use of social networks and LinkedIn could also be an effective channel for exchanges.

Herland Cerveaux, Programme Director at the UCCIOI, made a related suggestion in his speech on the **digital business platform for the Indian Ocean zone, “ocean-indien.biz”**. Herland Cerveaux would be interested in finding out whether the members of the Indian Ocean group would be interested in “ocean-indien.biz”. Beyond that, however, he believes there could be **a place there for an AIVP Indian Ocean “club”**. He spoke about the possibility of using this tool to identify skills and expertise in our respective territories, in order to launch and optimise cooperative initiatives. This is an idea worth exploring, but the **goals and arrangements for the content and leadership of such a club still need to be fleshed out**, along with the links between “océan-indien.biz” and a collaborative platform for the Indian Ocean group.

The **demand for a collaborative platform, its feasibility, links and integration with the existing [Indian Ocean Group website](#)**, have still to be assessed. At the event, AIVP proposed creating a platform that could be accessed from the existing dedicated Indian Ocean Group site, and is therefore in favour of the idea mooted. The platform could provide a **forum for sharing information about city-port projects** being developed in the zone, and **pre-identified themes** as mentioned above. AIVP suggested **providing the group with all of the documents supplied by its members, including those relating to contract tenders**, to promote the sharing of information and regional cooperation.

The other expectations mentioned concern actions on very specific issues:

- studies relating to the LNG industry;
- cruise sector strategy aimed at rationalising the number of ports of call to avoid saturating the market;
- regional integration of port projects;
- actions to promote human capital in the face of threats from Techno 4.0 and automation;
- ...

When asked what aims the group should be working towards, those surveyed suggested **benchmarking, sharing experience, collective intelligence, innovation**, and identifying proven successful solutions.

Suggested partnerships

In his speech, Eric Apelgren stressed the importance and benefits of cooperation and multiple partnerships, such as those undertaken by Durban. He suggested that **AIVP should disseminate not just its experience**, but also the **goals identified in its 2030 Agenda**, to the IORA – [Indian Ocean Rim Association](#). He believes the Agenda has enormous potential value for the IORA. The City of Durban is an active member, and its Mayor is a prominent figure within the organisation. He could play a key role in facilitating cooperation, and contacts between the AIVP Indian Ocean group and the IORA. More generally, he believes **AIVP is a unique and strategic partner in terms of city-port relations, and other partnerships should be developed.**

Some members could **speak on behalf of the Indian Ocean group in dealings with their partners.** This is what **Christian Corre** proposes to do, via the Union Maritime et Portuaire de Mayotte, as he indicated in the debates and in his responses to the questionnaire. He believes that **closer contacts with the [Indian Ocean Commission - IOC](#)** and the **APIOI - Association of Indian Ocean Island Ports** - could also be considered. As regards the **APIOI**, the question could of course of discussed with **Ramalingum Maistry** (President of the Mauritius Port Authority), who was re-elected President of the organisation last February.

Nathi Mthethwa has indicated that he can introduce the group to his **contacts at [United Cities and Local Governments \(UGLC\)](#), [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#), and the [Sister Cities Program](#).**

The group's members are also very interested in establishing contacts with their counterparts, experts and/or project sponsors. This demand once again underscores the priority attached to sharing experiences for a real and/or virtual process of reflection via a collaborative platform.

Next AIVP Indian Ocean Days

Applications to host the **2nd AIVP Days event for the Indian Ocean group** were invited. Mr Maistry's proposal to host the event in **Mauritius in autumn 2019** was greeted positively. The exact schedule and topics to be covered are yet to be defined. The event may focus on a single theme selected from those identified above, or a range of themes, as for this inaugural event.

The AIVP Indian Ocean Days could take place annually. Eric Apelgren has already expressed an interest in hosting the 3rd edition in Durban, and renewed the invitation in his response to the questionnaire, suggesting a date of May 2020. The proposal, and the suggested frequency, will need to be examined with a view to AIVP's global calendar of actions.