



AFRIMARI

Africa's shipping professionals discuss CSR and Niger delta

Corporate social responsibility and the ticking time-bomb of oil extraction in the Niger Delta stirred a hot discussion at the third anniversary of networking group Afrimari. The network brings together over 200 working professionals in the African maritime and oil and gas related industries.

The event featured the screening of the documentary "Delta Boys" by Andrew Berends, which tracks the lives of militants in the Niger Delta and the communities affected by conflict in the oil-rich region. After the film, three top speakers led a sometimes impassioned discussion.

The speakers combined industry and civil-society experience with deep knowledge of the region, the conflict and the possible solutions. They were: Rtd Captain Edward Agbakoba (his experience includes six years in command of merchant ships, 11 years in the Nigerian Maritime Administration, and 16 years in the maritime safety division of the International Maritime Organization), Jonathan Bearman of oil industry consultancy Clearwater Research Services Ltd and Joseph Croft of Stakeholder Democracy Group, which supports those worst affected by the activities of extractive industries.

The film showed the impact of oil and gas extraction on the lives and livelihoods of the Delta's indigenous people. The discussion highlighted some of the dynamics and difficulties of trying to solve the grave problem of organized crime networks which have grown around oil theft which may be costing \$24billion a year and extends to stolen refineries and oil rigs.

Co-founder Temi Binitie, Senior Chartering Executive at AET Tankers, says: "Corporate social responsibility is very important in all aspects of the maritime industry, such as shipping, ports and logistics as well as in the energy industries. We bring together highly skilled professionals who are passionate about Africa, including potential future leaders of our continent's maritime business. CSR is a great topic for us to debate."

The event on 21 March 2013 was hosted by Cass Business School, London, and sponsored by the Cass Commodities & Shipping Society. Afrimari's usual networking session was held after the discussion, and attendees had the chance to continue the debate, meet the speakers and generally get to know each other.



A F R I M A R I

The third anniversary event saw a record attendance and was over-subscribed, but was limited to 100 attendees due to the size of the room.

Afrimari (African Maritime) is a professional networking group specialising in the dynamic and fast-growing African maritime, energy and trade related sectors. Through quarterly gatherings, the network shares industry knowledge and expertise while connecting members with each other and the business community. The group encompasses professionals from the following three sectors: maritime & logistics; energy, trade, & finance; and legal & risk.

The network was launched in March 2010 by Temi Binitie and Gemina Cooper, both qualified members of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS). It has been supported from the start by leading organisations within the industry, including AET, Braemar Seascope, Colemont Insurance, the ICS and Cass Business School. The networking meetings feature high calibre speakers who discuss the maritime and trade industry's most pressing issues. Topics have included Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Bill, maritime border disputes, piracy in Africa and the future of the Niger Delta. Afrimari raises money and awareness for the Sailors' Society charity and has recently partnered with Careers in Africa IHS will be Afrimari's second quarter hosts on June 27 2013.

According to Gemina Cooper, co-founder and Gas Sales and Marketing Manager at Gasol Plc: "Afrimari's members are its main strength: the relationships they develop, the experience they share and the knowledge they absorb are the network's foundations for future business opportunities."

Motto: "Connecting Future Leaders".

For more information, please visit: www.afrimari.com

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/afri_mari](https://twitter.com/afri_mari)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Afrimari/104189909685761>

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For more information and quotes/interviews please contact Temi Binitie at tk@afrimari.com

For more information about the group, attending the prestigious events and sponsorship of Afrimari events please contact Temi Binitie or email theboard@afrimari.com.