

## **A Report from the 2nd Cable Protection and Awareness Workshop, West Africa**

For the 2014 event, **2<sup>nd</sup> Cable Protection and Awareness Workshop** held in both Nigeria and Ghana, ICPC Member and operator **Main One Cable Company** led a week-long event in October informing local communities regarding the importance of undersea cables, specifically: identifying a cable's location to avoid damage and ensure long-term protection. The overall goal of the workshop was to promote awareness of the strategic, economic and social benefits of undersea cables to inform stakeholders also involved in the use of the seabed. The event focused on the significance of submarine cables as critical infrastructure whose availability, resilience and dependability are essential to the functioning of today's economy, security, and other vital social systems.

The event attracted 350 attendees from Ghana and Nigeria including submarine cable companies, oil and gas firms, cable maintenance bodies, and regulatory organisations. The [ICPC informational video](#) was shown at most of the meetings/conferences throughout the week in each country and underlined how helpful a resource the video was during presentations to attendees.

The Main One Cable system—a 7,000km submarine cable with landing stations in Nigeria, Ghana and Portugal was completed in 2010. The operator of the cable, with involvement from the Nigerian and Ghanaian Maritime Authorities and Regulators, has sought to obtain governmental legislation to protect the system in both country meetings, and to:

- designate the submarine cable system as 'critical infrastructure;' and
- promote and approve legislation to safeguard the cable route and implement a protection zone of 500m in the waters of both countries.

### ***In Nigeria, the operator met with entities including:***

- Nigerian Ports Authority - (NPA) Apapa Harbour
- Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office (NNHO)
- Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (Nimasa)
- Nigerian Institute of Oceanography & Marine Research (NIOMR)
- Eko Atlantic

### ***In Ghana, the operator met with entities including:***

- Deputy Director of Fisheries of the Ministry of Fisheries and Research Department
- NAVY - Eastern Command, Tema
- Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA)
- Tema Harbor Master, Captain Afadzi
- Tema Port, Weekly Berthing Meeting
- Ministry of Communications (MOC) team
- Navy - Chief of Naval Staff, Commodore Amoama and Director of Operations, Attache Commander of the Navy Headquarters, Burma camp.

In conclusion, the response from the **2<sup>nd</sup> Cable Protection and Awareness Workshop** in West Africa was constructive. A Representative of the National Security Adviser (NSA) supported the event through participation. The NSA is directly administered by the Nigerian Presidency. This demonstrates how local and national government are recognising the importance of subsea cables and the role they play in the development of economic, financial, government and social welfare of the countries, and how global communications through submarine cables empower regional economies.

The ICPC supports those involved in undersea cables to share the seabed in harmony with other seabed users, while at the same time sharing important information regarding the protection of power and telecommunication cables.