Advanced Port Management and Marine Logistics Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, ports serve as the primary gateways for international trade, making their efficient management a cornerstone of supply chain success. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted world of port management and marine logistics, designed to equip professionals with the strategic and operational skills necessary to excel in this dynamic industry. Drawing upon foundational principles and contemporary best practices, the curriculum delves into every aspect of the port ecosystem, from terminal operations and cargo handling to regulatory compliance and strategic planning. As highlighted by esteemed academic Dr. Hercules Haralambides in works like "Port Management and Operations", a holistic understanding of port economics, technology, and policy is crucial for navigating modern challenges. BIG BEN Training Center has structured this program to bridge theory and practice, ensuring participants can optimize port performance, enhance supply chain visibility, and drive sustainable growth. This training course is an essential investment for anyone seeking to master the complexities of maritime logistics and lead the next generation of port innovation.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Port and Terminal Managers.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Professionals.
- Shipping Line Managers and Agents.
- Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers.
- Maritime Operations Supervisors.
- Port Authority Officials and Staff.
- Supply Chain Analysts and Planners.
- Import/Export Managers.
- Maritime Security Officers.
- Commercial and Trade Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Shipping and Maritime Transport.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Freight Forwarding and Third-Party Logistics (3PL).
- Manufacturing and International Trade.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy Sectors.
- Governmental Bodies, Port Authorities, and Regulatory Agencies.
- Consulting Firms specializing in transport and infrastructure.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Operations Department.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Department.
- Port and Terminal Operations.
- Commercial and Business Development.
- Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE).
- Procurement and Contracts.
- Customs and Compliance.
- Strategic Planning and Finance.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Analyze the critical role of ports within the global supply chain network.
- Master the principles of container and bulk terminal operations management.
- Develop strategies for improving port efficiency and performance using key metrics.
- Navigate the complexities of maritime law, customs procedures, and international regulations.
- Implement effective port security and safety protocols in line with the ISPS Code.
- Evaluate the economic and financial drivers of port development and investment.
- Integrate sustainable practices and green port initiatives into port strategy.
- Assess the impact of digitalization and automation on future port operations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and directly applicable to the professional challenges faced by participants. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment where knowledge is co-created and reinforced through practical application. The course heavily relies on real-world case studies from leading global ports, allowing participants to analyze complex scenarios, debate strategic decisions, and formulate viable solutions. Interactive group discussions, workshops, and simulation exercises will be used to tackle operational bottlenecks and logistical challenges. Participants will engage in collaborative projects that mirror the cross-functional teamwork required in modern port management. Expert-led sessions will provide deep insights into current industry trends, from smart port technologies to sustainable logistics. Continuous feedback and guided reflection are embedded throughout the program, ensuring that learning is not only absorbed but also contextualized and prepared for immediate implementation in the workplace.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Port Management and Global Trade

- Introduction to the maritime industry and the role of ports.
- The port as a critical node in the global supply chain.
- Types of ports and their specialized functions.
- Understanding port governance models and stakeholders.
- Key terminology in shipping and marine logistics.
- The economic impact of ports on national and regional economies.
- Introduction to port performance indicators (KPIs).

Unit Two: Port Operations and Terminal Management

- Container terminal layout, design, and equipment.
- Managing vessel berthing and quay-side operations.
- Yard planning and management strategies.
- Gate operations and landside logistics integration.
- Bulk and break-bulk cargo handling procedures.
- Optimizing resource allocation for labor and equipment.
- Health and safety standards in terminal operations.

Unit Three: Marine Logistics and Regulatory Frameworks

- The end-to-end maritime supply chain.
- Intermodal transportation and hinterland connectivity.
- The role of shipping lines, freight forwarders, and NVOCCs.
- Key shipping documentation including the Bill of Lading.
- International maritime regulations (SOLAS, MARPOL).
- The ISPS Code and port security management.
- Customs procedures, tariffs, and trade facilitation.

Unit Four: Port Strategy, Finance, and Sustainability

- Port economics, pricing, and tariff structures.
- Port marketing and business development strategies.
- Financial planning and investment appraisal for port projects.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in port development.
- Environmental challenges in the port industry.
- Developing and implementing green port initiatives.
- Corporate social responsibility for port authorities.

Unit Five: The Future of Ports and Advanced Logistics

- Digital transformation and the concept of the Smart Port.
- Automation in container handling and terminal operations.
- The role of Big Data, IoT, and AI in port management.
- Port Community Systems (PCS) and information sharing.
- Maritime risk management and supply chain resilience.
- Managing disruptions and emergency response in ports.
- Final project and simulation of a port management scenario.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As ports move towards full automation and digitalization, what are the unforeseen ethical and societal challenges that port managers must anticipate beyond operational efficiency?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by offering a holistic, strategic perspective that transcends purely operational training. While many programs focus on the mechanics of port functions, this curriculum integrates operational excellence with high-level strategic planning, financial acumen, and forward-looking leadership. We emphasize the interconnectedness of the port with its entire ecosystem, from hinterland logistics to global economic currents, ensuring participants develop a comprehensive worldview. The content is deeply rooted in contemporary challenges and opportunities, with dedicated modules on sustainability, digitalization, and supply chain resilience, which are often treated as peripheral topics elsewhere. Rather than just presenting tools, we utilize a case-study-based methodology that compels participants to analyze complex, real-world problems and develop nuanced solutions. This approach fosters critical thinking and strategic decision-making skills, preparing leaders who can not only manage a port today but also shape its evolution for tomorrow's globally integrated and technologically advanced landscape.