



20 October 2013

Robert Ward
President, IHB Directing Committee
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

HCA13-06.2B

Dear Captain Ward,

At the recent COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM XXV) that we held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, our 29 COMNAP Member National Antarctic Programmes took the opportunity to discuss the proposal for an MOU between IHO and COMNAP as per the draft MOU which was kindly sent to COMNAP for consideration in June 2013.

As you know, COMNAP and the IHO, in particular through the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA), have worked together on many Antarctic issues over the past many years and I certainly look forward to working with you in order to continue that tradition.

However, COMNAP as an international association of governmental organizations is not in a position to enter into formal MOUs with other organizations. Therefore, at this point in time, we must decline the opportunity to enter into a formal MOU.

The AGM recognized the long-standing and important relationship that exists between our two organizations and gave strong support for a COMNAP delegate to continue to attend annual HCA meetings for as long as IHO is willing to allow our organization to send an observer to those meetings. We also greatly value the ability to consult with HCA representatives on projects of mutual concern, such as our recent joint work on the ATCM Review of Recommendations on Operational Matters and on developing a checklist for data collection on ships of opportunity.

It is our view that this joint work can continue to be successful without a formal MOU between our organizations.

With this in mind, I look forward to any future discussions to further advance the goals and objectives of each organization and to support each other when the opportunity to do so arises.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Miller
COMNAP Chair