

From: **Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE**
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SAIHC Letter No. 7/2019

12 August 2019

To: Members, Associate Members, and Observers of the IHO Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

Subject: **16th SAIHC Agenda Explanatory Note**

Dear SAIHC Participants

Please find attached the updated agenda for our upcoming meeting.

To ensure that we have a successful and productive meeting, I would like to encourage you to consider in advance the following eight key points:

1. **Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography** - This will set the scene in ensuring uniform understanding of the obligations and the governance requirements of providing a national hydrographic service. We should consider how SAIHC can best support coastal states in meeting international obligations. Please be prepared to contribute with your experience of risk assessment and decision making, along with hydrographic service best practice and challenges faced. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback on your experience of the Seminar in the Capacity Building agenda item 19.2.
2. **Regional MSDI** - Following the establishment of the SAIHC regional MSDIWG during the 15th SAIHC Conference, please review the SAIHC16 MSDIWG Annual Report and MSDIWG Letter No. 1/2019 submitted ahead of the meeting, and kindly consider the actions, including your response to the MSDI questionnaire.
3. **INT Chart Coordination Working Group** - This separate meeting aims to coordinate the allocation of production responsibilities to ensure that both paper and electronic chart coverage supports ships engaged in international voyages. Please review your current and future capability in INT chart and ENC production. Please also consider the IRCC11 recommendations 6-10 from WENDWG (IRCC11-07D1).
4. **National Reports** - This is an important part of the meeting. If you are not yet a Member of IHO, please ensure that an update on your intentions to join IHO, which includes any impediments or issues preventing membership, is included in your National Report. I look forward to your input to enhance ongoing cooperation throughout the SAIHC region.
5. **Capacity Building** - IHO Funding for CB activities has been reduced and we will jointly consider the future SAIHC CB Plan (2021-2023) and what we can achieve given the reduction in funds. Please consider your requirements and contributions.
6. **IRCC11 Actions and Recommendations** - All IRCC11 Actions and Recommendations affecting RHCs will be discussed during the meeting, attached for information. Please familiarise yourself with these before the meeting, and of course consider any input for IRCC12.
7. **IHO Council** - With the 3rd Meeting of the IHO Council in October 2019, please refer to the documents on the IHO website. Please consider any input you may wish to discuss.
8. **IHO Assembly** - This will be our last meeting before the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2020, so we will need to determine which views, if any, we would like to bring to Assembly's attention from a SAIHC perspective. Please come ready to discuss/input.

Yours sincerely
Tim Lowe