

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA AND  
ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)  
by the Chairman, Mr. Albano GOVE, Mozambique**

The SAIHC was established in 1996 following the Administrative Resolution T 1.2. of the IHO. It is a grouping of countries under the auspices of the IHO with strong interests in promoting Hydrography in the southern African region and beyond and is composed by France, Mozambique, Norway, South Africa and the UK as full members and Angola, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles and Tanzania as associate members.

Since its inception SAIHC has held three ordinary biennial meetings and one extraordinary. The issues discussed in the meetings included the following:

- Definition of priorities for the region, e.g. Port and approaches surveys coupled with undertaking on the job training.
- Urging Associate members to become members of the IHO and hence full members of SAIHC
- Identifying sources of funding for Hydrographic projects in the region
- Evaluation and subsequent approval of the Regional Hydrographic Project developed with the assistance of the NORSEA Group (Group of companies from Norway) which concept is the commissioning of a mobile survey unit, composed by a self- contained vessel with surveying and processing equipment, with the overall goal of satisfying immediate needs for hydrographic survey and charting in the region while creating a nucleus of expertise and equipment in the private and public sector.
- Cooperation in the field of training
- Technical presentations by experts from Government and Private Institutions working in Hydrography and other related fields.

SAIHC has been over this period an active player within SADC (Southern African Development Community) in promoting Hydrographic activities amongst its members to ensure the safety of navigation in the region.

The chairman of SAIHC has attended three meetings of the Maritime and Inland Waterways Committee, in which the Regional Hydrographic Project was discussed and adopted. After the submission of the project to the highest body of SADC it met its approval in the year 2000.

The project document was included in the “Background Paper” of the SADC Transport Investment Forum, held in Windhoek, Namibia, which was attended by donor and funding agencies and government officials.

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**KUWAIT WORKSHOP**  
**24-27 October 1999**

**Technical Workshop for Middle Eastern States**

The Workshop, jointly organized by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and the IHB, was held in Kuwait, 24-27 October 1999. About 30 participants from regional hydrographic authorities and more than 10 companies attended. The Workshop focussed on recent developments in the fields of hydrography and nautical cartography as well as on issues related to the improvement of regional cooperation (*See RSAHC Report hereafter*).

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