

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF
NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)**

1. The fourth meeting of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) was held at Mumbai, India from 24-25 Mar 2004 under the Chairmanship of Rear Admiral KR Srinivasan, AVSM, Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India. The meeting was organized by the Naval Hydrographic Department of India. Delegates from France, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, UK and USA attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Appendix A.**

2. IHB President, Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS, and Captain Mike Barritt, IHB Coordinator for S-55 attended the meeting. SPWG Chairman, Capt. Frode KLEPSVIK also attended the meeting on 25 March 04.

3. **Opening remarks.** At the outset the Chairman, Rear Admiral KR Srinivasan welcomed all the delegates, and thanked everyone for having been able to attend the meeting. He also thanked Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS, President for having been able to take out time from his busy schedule, and be present for the meeting. The Chairman summarized the importance of conducting this meeting. He also stated that he expected more countries to join the commission in the near future. He also briefly highlighted the importance of the regional and technical cooperation issues.

4. **Address by the President.** In his address IHB President thanked India for organizing the fourth meeting at Mumbai and the initiatives taken for the functioning of the commission. He also expressed confidence that the work carried out in the commission, would go a long way towards promoting Navigational safety in the area. In his presentation, he emphasised the importance of the Marine Surveying for promoting safe navigation, environmental protection, development of coastal state and in the field of security & defence.

Item 1. Review of reference documents.

5. The Chairman reviewed the list of reference documents included in the meeting material.

Item 2. Adoption of Provisional Agenda.

6. The Chairman requested all delegates to comment on the provisional agenda for the meeting. The member states recommended few points to be included which were incorporated.

Item 3. Review on Action Points of the 3rd NIOHC Meeting.

7. Some of the important discussions on the Action points of the third meeting are as follows: -

a) **Progress on implementation of the INT Chart Scheme.** In response to comments of Bangladesh for authorizing the member states for survey and production of INT charts covering their water, the Chairman directed that select INT charts may be prepared in collaboration with other country.

b) **Implementation of SOLAS Chapter V of IHO by Member states.**

(i) Copy of detailed letter forwarded by IHB to IMO on updating the IMO resolution on hydrographic services is to be forwarded to all members.

Status. IHB President informed that Circular letter in this regard is under issue.

(ii) IHB to monitor with IMO the update of the IMO resolution on hydrography.

Status. IHB President informed that the letter is being circulated by IMO through Marine Safety Committee Circular letter.

Action: IHO

c) **Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII area**

IHB to forward letter to IMO regarding encouraging mariners to forward Hydrographic Notes, which will help in keeping charts updated.

Status. IHB President informed that this issue has been taken up with IMO, and was also covered in the presentation given by IHO to IMO. IHB was requested to pursue the matter with IMO for suitable promulgation to MS and incorporation in MSC Circular Letters.

Action: IHO

Item 4. Review of Statutes of the Commission.

8. The Chairman informed that from the existing membership of the commission, all States except for Oman, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have signed the statutes. The Chairman asked the delegates from Oman, Malaysia, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Sudan whether they were willing to sign the Statute during the meeting. The delegates from Oman, Malaysia, Maldives & Sudan stated that they were not in a position to sign the Statute, as the same has to be considered at their Government level. Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri from Saudi Arabia informed that Saudi Arabia would like to become Associate Member of NIOHC. This was unanimously welcomed by all MS. Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri signed the signatory sheet to this effect. Other MS were requested to sign the statutes earliest to take the NIOHC membership

and coverage forward vis-à-vis the new principles for the council setup in IHO SPWG recommendations based on total MS in a RHC.

Action: MS

9. No amendments to the existing statutes for NIOHC were proposed by any MS.

Item No 5 **Exchange of information through National Reports.**

10. National Reports were submitted by delegates from France, India, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Seychelles, Thailand and UK. A copy of each was presented to all delegates. Other MS were requested to forward their National Reports atleast 2 weeks prior to NIOHC meetings to all concerned and to the Chairman of NIOHC.

Action: Chairman NIOHC and MS

Item No 6. **Implementation of SOLAS Chapter 5 of IHO by MS. Obligation of Coastal states and scope for Capacity building.**

11. Captain Mike Barritt made a presentation on the progress made by IHOCBC and the contribution made by various RHC's in this regard. Copy of the presentation was presented to all delegates. The following was discussed at the end of the presentation:

- a) Use of UNGA Resolution A/RES/58/240 and IMO Resolution A 958(23) to improve National awareness on Hydrography.
- b) Losing trained hydrographic personnel on whom substantial investment have been made.

12. **Decisions.**

- (i) Use the UNGA Resolution A/RES/58/240 and IMO Resolution A 958(23) to improve National awareness in Hydrography and build up adequate hydrographic capability.
- (ii) MS having problems with losing trained hydrographic personnel are to share their experience with IHO CBC by 30/04/04, under intimation to NIOHC Chairman.

Action: MS

Item No 7. **Review Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical charting in North Indian Ocean Region in the light of revision of IHO Special Publication S-55.**

13. Captain Mike Barritt made a presentation on the "Revision and Re issue of S-55". Copy of the presentation was presented to all delegates. Captain Mike Barritt

appreciated the prompt response of Seychelles in regard to S-55 questionnaire. The Chairman requested all Member states to forward their information as per the revised format for S-55, and continuously update the same.

14. **Decisions.**

- (i) Give inputs for survey database to Chairman NIOHC and IHB for updating S-55 by 31.08.04 and update the same on quarterly basis.
- (ii) Obtain response to questionnaire (S-55) from National authorities and Marine Associations and forward to IHB and NIOHC Chairman by 31/05/04.
- (iii) Lobby with Nautical Institutes for three elements of importance, which are promulgation of Marine Safety Information (MSI), Hydrographic Surveys and marine Cartography.

Action: MS

Item No 8. Progress on implementation of the INT Chart Scheme

15. The Chairman briefly informed about the initiatives taken by India in the production of INT Charts in Area J which have been approved by IHO and also stated MS are welcome to make suggestions for inclusion of more charts into the INT Chart scheme. All the delegates thereafter briefly informed about the implementation of the existing INT chart scheme in their waters.

16. In response to a query raised by Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri from Saudi Arabia, the issue of authorizing HO's as producer nation for INT charts, Dr. Wyn William stated that on the basis of historical links, HO's of countries like France, UK, USA and India were probably assigned the tasks of producing charts by IHB.

17. The Chairman reiterated the need for MS to concentrate on producing charts depending on various factors, and intimate changes to existing approved INT scheme. He also said that there is an urgent need to look into the definition of National and International jurisdiction on matters concerning chart production. IHB President informed that this is a legal issue and IHO will not like to be drawn into this. Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri from Saudi Arabia cited the example of survey in Red Sea & Gulf in this connection. Captain Mike Barrit stated that Coastal states have sovereign rights for undertaking hydrographic surveys within their territorial waters. He added that Hydrographic survey beyond territorial water by other Coastal states is not exclusively excluded as per UNCLOS since this relates to Marine Scientific Research. The Chairman in response to Captain Mike Barritt's comments stated that he was aware of this interpretation and does not agree with this definition. He added that this is a matter, sooner or later will have to be resolved by IHB.

18. **Decisions.**

(i) Forward details of INT charts being produced by them to NIOHC Chairman by 31 Jun 04, with the plan of action for production of the balance charts from the IHO's INT Scheme for Area 'J'.

Action: MS

(ii) India will workout a proposed Way Ahead in this regard and intimate MS by 31 Aug 04 for eliciting a response.

Action: India

(iii) Take up National & International jurisdiction for charting responsibility under IHO based on Navigational safety needs.

Action: IHB

Item No 9. Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII area, Marine Safety Information (MSI) in NAVAREA VIII area and the implementation of Global Maritime Distress and Safety Services (GMDSS).

19. The Chairman stated that there was an urgent need to encourage mariners to forward hydrographic note, which is one of the important means for updating of Marine Safety Information. The Chairman further stated that promulgation of Radio Navigational warnings within NAVAREA play a key role towards promoting Navigational safety. He also said that promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings through Safety Net is costlier in comparison to transmission through Navtex. He requested IHB President to work out with IMO in order to reduce these costs for Marine safety. IHB President stated that Member states need to work out a system of repeating the warning through Navtex /GMDSS in order to reduce these charges, where by a certain distance could be covered by Navtex.

20. **Decisions.**

(i) All MS to liaise with their shipping authorities for issue of marine safety note/circular, for encouraging mariners to forward Hydrographic Note to the respective HOs.

(ii) Monitor reception of NAVAREA warning within area, and inform NAVAREA coordinator, in case of any problem.

Action:MS

Item No 10. Establishing of Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure and way ahead.

21. The Chairman stated that there is increasing global trend for establishing Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure. He recommended that states while establishing the National Spatial data Infrastructure, take the overall Regional & Global factors also into account.

22. **Decision.**

Intimate to the Chairman the status of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in their countries and Way Ahead for Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (RSDI) by 30/08/04.

Action:MS

Item No. 11. **Training and Education (Task 2.1.4 IHO WP) activities and studies /Exchange of training facilities.**

23. IHB President informed that the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) was recently funded by Nippon foundation based in Japan to carryout the training on Ocean bathymetry over three years. He urged MS to nominate suitable trainees for the course. He added that this item on training and education is part of the IHO Work Program, and information on this subject is passed to all Member states. The Chairman emphasized the need to invest in Human resource development by having well trained personnel, who should be utilized effectively.

24. **Decisions.**

(i) GEBCO Training Project through Nippon foundation to be utilized (IHO CL 10/2004). MS may nominate suitable candidates to IHB by 06/4/2004.

(ii) Ensure optimum utilization of personnel trained on hydrography to retain talent.

Action: MS

Item No 12. ENC

25. The Chairman emphasized the need for MS to produce ENC in the region as per S-57 format. He requested the delegates to give the status of ENC production in their representative areas. Delegates from participating MS gave the status of ENC production in their respective areas. The Chairman emphasized the need to have some time bound programme for ENC production, and for training & QA/QC of the ENC. He brought out the errors in ENC data, which have been reported by Mariners. He recommended that ENC productions of key shipping routes need to be taken up on priority. He also said MS, if facing any problem in this regard, may seek the assistance of the Commission. The Chairman stated that the Commission has adequate expertise for assisting needy Member States for ENC production. The Chairman offered India's assistance to any MS for production and training of ENCs. Dr Wyn William offered UKHO's assistance to all MS for production of ENC. He said that the ownership of ENC's would be that of the Member States, whose waters will be charted by UKHO. UKHO will continue to maintain them till the nation develops the capability to maintain

them. Dr Wyn William further stated that UK conducts training on ENC, the details of which has been covered in the National report submitted by UKHO. He emphasized the need for ENC data to be consistent so as to enable the Mariners to gain confidence in ENC as a product. He recommended scheming of the ENC so as to facilitate mariners for getting coverage for any particular route from one source. IHB President reiterated the importance of the validation procedure to be adopted by HO. He also highlighted the difficulty faced while marketing ENC. He recommended marketing of ENC through RENC.

26. **Decisions.**

- a) MS to intimate their ENC program by 31/07/04 and Plan of Action to achieve the same.
- b) Formulate Regional project. MS to send proposals for Marine Electronic Highways in International Charting Scheme Area J. Proposal to include VTS, TSS etc.
- c) MS to forward comments with due interaction with National authorities to NIOHC Chairman by 31 May 04 on WEND letter 01/2004 regarding "Proposal to consider ships to use the RCDS without the requirement to carry paper chart".

Action: MS

Item No 13. Status of SPWG work programme and matters related to the changes to the IHO Convention, General Regulations etc.

27. The Chairman thanked Captain Frode Klepsvik, Chairman, SPWG for having been able to take out time from his busy schedule, and be present for the meeting. SPWG Chairman gave a stimulating presentation and appraised the gathering about the ongoing issues of SPWG including the changes to the IHO Convention, General Regulations etc.

28. **Decision.** MS to carefully study and forward their comments on the proposed amendments to the convention and any suggestions, if any, to the NIOHC Chairman by 15 Apr 04 positively for compilation and transmission to the Chair Group SPWG.

Action: MS

Item No 14.

- (i) **New techniques and equipment in Hydrography and Oceanography, Sharing of knowledge & experience, and Feasibility of achieving commonality of maintenance services.**
- (ii) **Develop better communication and more frequent interaction between Member States.**

(iii) **Logo for NIOHC**

29. The Chairman recommended standardization of Survey equipment and the hydrographic software in view of the rapidly changing and widening technology. The Chairman further reiterated the need to share knowledge and experience on operating and maintenance of hydrographic equipment and on various survey related software applications.

30. The Chairman emphasized the importance of communication for facilitating smooth and speedy flow of information. He recommended the use of e-mail extensively for exchange of information between MS, as it was cheaper, simple, fast and available to all.

31. Cdr TS Vasudevan presented four logos of different colors. Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri from Saudi Arabia pointed out that the logos did not show the Red Sea area which falls within Area J. Oman recommended that ship shown in the logo be of white colour. This was agreed by everyone.

32. **Decision.**

(i) Promulgate the website details of open forum for exchange of information by 31 Jun 04. **Action:** India

(ii) Improve communications and respond to Circular Letters etc. in time. **Action:** MS

(iii) "Logo 1" may be approved with the following changes:

- (a) Extend Red Sea so as to cover complete Area 'J'.
- (b) Colour of the Ship to be changed to white.

Action: Chairman NIOHC

Item No. 14.

(i) **Election of next Chairman and Vice Chairman**

(ii) **Venue and date of next meeting.**

33. The Chairman requested for volunteers to take over the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship of NIOHC. Dr Wyn William from UKHO stated that UK would like to volunteer for taking over the Chairmanship, and Mr. MA Ariyawansa from Sri Lanka informed that Sri Lanka would volunteer for taking over the Vice Chairmanship of NIOHC. It was unanimously decided that UK and Sri Lanka will take over the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship of the commission. The Chairman thereafter requested for volunteers for holding the next NIOHC meeting. Commodore Abdulrahman Mohd, Al-Shehri from Saudi Arabia volunteered for holding the next meeting of NIOHC at Riyadh.

Decision.

- (i) UK will take over the Chairmanship. Sri Lanka will take over Vice Chairmanship.
- (ii) The next meeting will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The dates for the meeting will be intimated by Aug 04.

Action: Saudi Arabia

Any other business.

34. All delegates attended the International Hydrographic Seminar titled "HYDRO-IND-2004" organized by NHD on 26 & 27 Mar 04, which was planned as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Naval Hydrographic Department.

35. Dr Wyn William from UKHO thanked RAdm KR Srinivasan on behalf of all delegates for playing a key role in the in the formation of NIOHC and for chairing four meetings of the commission. He wished the Chairman, all the best in his future endeavors.

36. The Chairman in his closing remark stated that this commission has achieved a lot in a very short period. He added that RHC's will continue to play a major role in the future program of IHB. He thanked the IHO for their guidance and all Member States for their active participation in the activities of the Commission.



HY/H/0150/2
Dehradun (India)
22 Jun 04

(KR Srinivasan)
Rear Admiral
Chairman

Enclosure: Appendix A

APPENDIX 'A'4TH NIOHC MEETING
MUMBAI, INDIA, 24-25 MARCH 2004LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SI No.	Name	Designation/Organisation	E-mail Address
01	RAdm KR Srinivasan, AVSM	NIOHC Chairman	ch@hydrobharat.org
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04	Capt. Frode Klepsvik	SPWG Chairman	frode.klepsvik@stathart.no
05	IGA (2S) Cailliau Etienne	SHOM, France	mlegouic@shom.fr
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08	Cdr V Badhwar, NM	Member of CBC Commanding Officer INS Investigator, India	nho@sancharnet.in
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16	Colonel Saeed Ibrahim Al-Zahrani M	General Directorate of Military	hydro@gdms.gov.sa

	Al-shehri	Survey, Saudi Arabia.	
17	Colonel Abdullah Saleh Al-Oraini	General Directorate of Military Survey, Saudi Arabia.	hydro@gdms.gov.sa
18	Lt Cdr Abdullah M Alqhtani	General Directorate of Military Survey, Saudi Arabia.	hydro@gdms.gov.sa
19	Lt Khalid Alagel	General Directorate of Military Survey, Saudi Arabia	kalagel@yahoo.com
20	Major Michael Rosette	Chief Hydrographer Hydrographic Brigade Seychelles Coast Guard	seycoast@seychelles.net mrosette@hotmail.com
21	Mr. MA Ariyawansa	Hydrographer National Hydrographic Office Sri Lanka	nho@sltnet.lk
22	Mr. OV Premachandra	Senior Cartographer National Hydrographic Office Sri Lanka	nho@sltnet.lk
23	Lt Cdr Mohamed Ali Sayed	Head of Sudan Hydrographic Dept	-
24	Rear Admiral Vichai Panpruk	Deputy Director General Royal Thai Navy	www.hydrotech@navy.mi.th
25	Captain Chakkrit Malikhao	Director of Surveying Division Royal Thai Navy	www.mchakkrit@yahoo.com
26	Dr Wyn Williams	Chief Executive and National Hydrographer UKHO	wyn.williams@ukho.gov.uk
27	Mr Richard Carpenter	Head of Electronic Charting UKHO	-
28	Mr. Thomas J Cuff	Director Far East Regional Office US Naval Oceanographic Office	cuff@nrccsg.navy.mil