

## ADVISORY VISITS IN SAIHC TO DEVELOP PRIORITISED NATIONAL SURVEY PLANS

1. UK Visits to Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya. A UK adviser completed this liaison in March 2007, and each country now has a prioritised national survey plan. The visit reports raised the following strategic issues which merit the attention of SAIHC and CBC:

- a. The need for further guidance, perhaps through a Seminar, on the conduct of a NHC.
- b. Provision of training to offset the loss of IMA courses.
- c. The need for training in the Portuguese language.
- d. The need for follow-up activity to maintain national commitment and momentum. The concept of a regional survey team appeared to have particular merit.

### 1.1 Technical Visits to NIOHC Red Sea Sub-region

1. Background. At its annual conference in 2004, the NIOHC acknowledged the difficulty of engaging the coastal states of the Red Sea sub-region in its business and decided to hold its next meeting in Jeddah, KSA. Following this meeting, successful bids were made to the CBC to fund technical visits to the coastal states. Provisional places were also booked for a training workshop and seminar in the region to address Phase 1 hydrographic obligations and skills. A visit to KSA has been conducted by IHB staff. France and UK agreed to undertake the visits to the Republics of the Sudan and Yemen.

2. Efficacy of the Visits. **Both the planning and the conduct of the visit to the Sudan were greatly facilitated by the co-operation between IHO and IMO on the model of the visits in the SAIHC region in 2006.** Mr Muindi indicated that he could also make the necessary contacts for a technical visit to Eritrea. As in the SAIHC visits, it was found that the joint approach facilitated high-level contact and afforded a better opportunity to raise awareness of national obligations under SOLAS V and to secure support for the local authorities responsible for hydrographic services. New first points of contact for the IHO in the Maritime Safety Administrations of the two countries were identified.

3. Regional Co-ordination and Co-operative Opportunities. Authorities in both Sudan and Yemen were receptive to advice on membership of IHO and NIOHC, and have been assured that guidance to supplement that in M-2 on the accession process will be readily supplied. The formation of a strong sub-regional grouping within the NIOHC will greatly assist co-operation in hydrographic matters, especially since it will bring more focus than is possible within the broader environmental forum of PERSGA. The Visit Team also considered that **IHO needs to be proactive in raising its profile in the countries alongside sister organisations such as IMO, IALA and IOC.**

4. Urgent MSI/GMDSS Actions. Both Sudan and Yemen have been urged to put internal arrangements in place for the collection of MSI. Both have been advised to declare SafetyNET Coastal Warning Areas, and the team explained how they could be linked into the WWNWS through the NAVAREA IX coordinator as soon as they appoint their national coordinator. **The NIOHC Chairman should monitor and encourage the necessary actions, and facilitate contact with CPRNW for advice.**

5. NIOHC/CBC Follow-up Actions.

- a. Encouragement of NHCs through a Regional Plan. The NIOHC, working with PERSGA, should promote discussion of regional cooperation for improved hydrographic arrangements on and adjacent to the important international sea routes through the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- b. Funding. The NIOHC and CBC should seek ways to apply their limited funding resources in the most effective way to assist the littoral states to make their case for project funding from the WB GEF and other sources. The Visit Team became aware that significant bilateral assistance has already been given with this goal in mind, and recommend that the NIOHC should encourage this co-operation.
- c. Training. The most urgent training requirements have already been put in place in the IHOCBC Work Programmes for 2007 and 2008, and Sudan and Yemen have been urged to take up the places reserved for them.

d. Advice. Once again, this time in Sudan, the need for technical advice on hydrography on inland waterways has arisen, underlining the importance of recent CBC serials addressing the necessary skills and techniques. This Visit Team would recommend a strategic review by the IHO of its part in responding to these calls for help, in conjunction with IMO and other appropriate inter-governmental organizations.

6. Follow up opportunities. **The Chairman NIOHC should take all possible steps to ensure representation of Sudan and Yemen at the 8<sup>th</sup> conference in Goa in 2008. Early liaison will be beneficial to explain the format and importance of the standard national reports.**

### **CONCLUSION**

7. **The Red Sea sub-region lies at the NW extremity of the huge NIOHC area, and can be too easily overlooked. The littoral states, especially athwart the bottle-neck between the S end of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have weighty responsibilities for the safety of international shipping as well as national and regional maritime activity. They merit high priority support from the IHO, through their regional commission and the CBC and other specialist committees.**