

UKHO Reference: HA317/006/046/-03

17 May 07

See Distribution

REPORT OF NIOHC TECHNICAL VISITS 2007

References:

- A. IHOCBC Approved Work Programme for 2007.
- B. NIOHC Chairman's letters HA317/006/046/-03 dated 31 Oct 06.

INTRODUCTION

1. **Background.** At its annual conference in 2004, the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (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 IHO Capacity Building Committee (IHOCBC) 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 which are covered in this report.

2. **Composition of Team.** The NIOHC Visit Team comprised:

Captain M. K. Barritt RN, Vice Chairman IHOCBC;
IPETA O. A. H. Parvillers, of the Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine, France;
Mr J. P. Muindi, IMO Regional Co-ordinator for Southern and Eastern Africa (for the visit to Sudan).

3. **Countries Visited.** An outline of events during the visits of the team to the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of the Yemen is at Annex A. Individual country reports are also annexed, both of which have been reviewed and checked by the national authorities.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN REGION

4. **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. The report recommends new first points of contact for the IHO in the Maritime Safety Administrations of the two countries. In Sudan it was not at all clear that the land survey authority had taken much interest in hydrographic matters, other than through liaison with the Hydrographic Department of the Navy. The National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) of Sudan is best placed to resolve any residual inter-agency issues which may arise. In Yemen the team urged the importance of good teamwork between the relatively new Maritime Administration Authority (MAA), the IHO's traditional point of contact in the Yemen Ports Authority (YPA) and other maritime stakeholders.

5. **Co-operative Arrangements and Potential.** PERSGA remains the most important forum for co-operation between the Red Sea littoral states, not least to facilitate effective liaison with the World Bank to provide momentum for significant hydrographic projects. The Visit Team were not able to meet the national focal points, but were assured by their interlocutors that they were in close contact with the organization. It is recommended that PERSGA be asked to send a representative to the next NIOHC meeting, specifically to report on the progress of ongoing project planning for the Red Sea region.

6. **Country Summaries.** The following Tables summarise the position which the Team found in the two countries.

Table 1: Assessment of National Hydrographic Capability.

Country	IHO Member	NIOHC Member	NHC	Phase 1 Capacity	Phase 2 Capacity	Phase 3 Capacity	Notes
Sudan	No	Observer	No	Partial	Partial	No	1, 2
Yemen	No	No	Equivalent in place	Partial	Partial	No	1, 2, 3

Notes:

1. The Port organisations in both countries have sound links with the charting HO (UKHO), as does the MAA in Yemen.
2. The Port organisations in both countries, and the Hydrographic Department of the Sudan Navy, have some survey equipment, and some surveyors trained to IHO standards.
3. The Board of Directors of the MAA of Yemen is ideally configured to act as a NHC.

Table 2: Summary of Progress towards Implementation of GMDSS.

Country	Master Plan	A1 Area	A2 Area	A3 Area	NAVTEX	Safety NET	Notes
Sudan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1.
Yemen	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	

Notes:

1. The Sudan Seaports Corporation Coast Station will supply full details of its equipment fit through the Director MAD.

POTENTIAL FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

7. 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 consider that IHO needs to be proactive in raising its profile in the countries alongside sister organisations such as IMO, IALA and IOC.

8. National Co-ordination. The Minister of Transport in Sudan has approved the creation of a NHC, reporting directly to him. The MAA in Yemen has responded positively to the proposal that it should assume the NHC role. The Chairmen of these committees should be encouraged by regular contact from the Chairman NIOHC, especially to give early warning of the timescales of RHC meetings and the preparation of submissions to the IHOCBC.

9. Potential for Development of National Capability. The following table encapsulates the recommendations made by the Technical Visit Team, details of which will be found in the National Reports at Annexes B and C.

Table 3: Proposed National Hydrographic Capability.

Country	IHO Member	NIOHC Member	NHC in place	Phase 1 Capacity	Phase 2 Capacity	Phase 3 Capacity	Notes
Sudan	Recommended	Recommended	Approved and planned.	Full	Partial	N/A	
Yemen	Recommended	Recommended	Recommendation accepted.	Full	Partial	N/A	1

Notes:

1. The MAA voiced the ambition of conducting all surveys and producing charts nationally. The Visit Team noted these aspirations, but urged focus on the urgent requirement to implement Phase 1 capacity, especially the hydrographic components of GMDSS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. 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.

11. 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 IHOCBC 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.

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

CONCLUSION

13. 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.



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Annexes:

- A. Summary of Events.
- B. Country Report: Sudan.
- C. Country Report: Yemen.

Distribution:

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Information:

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