

**CELEBRATION OF WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY-2016 IN MAURITIUS ON 22
JUNE 2016 AT CAUDAN WATERFRONT PORT LOUIS**

1. In 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution A/60/30 on Oceans and law of the sea, which in particular welcomed the adoption by the IHO of the World Hydrography Day, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all levels and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis.

2. The theme for this year's World Hydrography Day as promulgated by the IHO is "**Hydrography- key to Well Managed Seas & Waterways**". The theme for 2016 is intended to focus attention on the fundamental importance of hydrography and our knowledge of the shape, nature and depth of the seafloor as a fundamental requirement for the proper, safe, sustainable and cost effective use of the world's seas, oceans and waterways.

3. The Hydrographic Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, being the nodal agency dealing with hydrographic commitments, celebrated World Hydrography Day on 22 June 2016 at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis. The Honourable Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Housing and Lands, the Ag. High Commissioner of India, dignitaries from various ministries and several stakeholders associated with Coastal Zone Management, maritime safety and security, marine science, environmental protection and port operations were invited to showcase the capabilities and achievements of the Hydrographic Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Mr. FK Juhoor, Deputy Permanent Secretary coordinated the event as Master of Ceremony. The following activities were conducted:-

(a) **Address by Officer-in-Charge.** An address was delivered by Officer-in-Charge highlighting the background of World Hydrography day. The talk further focussed on efforts required to promote and optimise hydrographic services in Mauritius. He informed the audience about major achievements of the unit in the past year, while giving an insight into the steps being taken to improve hydrographic coverage in future. The stakeholders and other agencies related to maritime domain were urged to work together to strengthen and promote hydrographic framework for efficient and sustainable use of seas and waterways.

(b) **Address by Ag. High Commissioner of India.** Mr. Ashok Kumar Ag. High Commissioner of India spoke about the long standing partnership between India and Mauritius in the field of hydrography. He outlined the history of the cooperation and the joint tasks which have been achieved till

date. High Commissioner informed the audience of India's commitment to further enhance the cooperation and support efforts in Mauritius towards efficient management and exploitation of vast Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) **Keynotes Address**. Keynote address on the theme of the year “**Hydrography-The Key to Well Managed Seas and Waterways**” was delivered by the Honourable Showkutally Soodhun GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands. In the address the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands primarily focussed on need for evolved hydrographic services for better management of marine resources.

Further concentrating on the progress of surveys till date and availability of nautical products in Mauritius, he exhorted maritime community to follow updated charts to avoid incidents. He also expressed his concern over the damage caused by grounding of MV Benita and the joint approach which needs to be adopted by various agencies to prevent such incidents in the future.

The other aspects deliberated were contribution of bathymetric data for National Spatial Data Infrastructure, economic progress and tourism development in the coming years.

(d) **Presentation of High Water Line Data**. The High Water Line Delineation data was presented by the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to the High Commissioner of India. The data is the result of a detailed survey carried out by the unit, which amounts to walking over of 325 KMs of coastline of mainland Mauritius. The high water line data will form part of the new chart of entire Mauritius, currently being compiled in India.

(e) **Release of Chart Catalogue**. The official catalogue of paper charts and ENC's of Mauritius was released on the occasion. The catalogue gives information to the mariners and other agencies related to maritime domain, about the nautical products available for Mauritian waters, including the source from where the products can be procured. The chart catalogue is the first hydrographic publication of Mauritius.

(f) **Practical Demonstration Onboard ISV Pathfinder**. The distinguished guests visited ISV Pathfinder for demonstration of survey capabilities. Single beam sounding, side scan operations, operation of Automatic Data logging System and procedure of carrying out coastal surveys were demonstrated during the visit. Senior staff of the Ministry, surveyors and school children were also given exposure of survey operations.

(g) **Open Day for Visitors and School Children.** An open day was organised for visitors to create awareness and showcase the importance of hydrography in maritime safety, security and national development. The public and students were informed on the fact that safe navigation requires accurate and up to date navigational charts, which is the end product of hydrography. PowerPoint presentation and motivational videos on hydrography were screened for students and public at large.

(h) **Exhibition of Hydrographic Survey Equipment.** The state of the art hydrographic equipment like Atlas-DESO 30 Echo sounder, TSS Dynamic Motion Sensor 25, Sea and Sun Technology CTD Profiler, Hemisphere R 131 Satellite DGPS, Edge Tech Side Scan Sonar were put on display. The public and students visiting the exhibition were briefed about the capabilities of existing hydrographic resources.

4. **Views.**



**HONOURABLE SHOWKUTALLY SOODHUN GCSK, VICE-PRIME MINISTER,
MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LANDS DELIVERING HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS**



**HANDING OVER OF HIGH WATER LINE DATA FOR MAURITIUS BY
HONOURABLE VICE-PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LANDS
TO Ag. HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA**

(From left: Mrs Dalida Allagapen Ag. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Housing and Lands, Honourable Showkutally Soodhun GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, Mr Ashok Kumar Ag. High Commissioner of India and Lt Commander Pradeep Singh Officer In Charge Hydrographic Unit)



RELEASE OF CHART CATALOGUE FOR MAURITIUS BY HONOURABLE SHOWKUTALLY SOODHUN GCSK, VICE-PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LANDS



DISPLAY OF EQUIPMENT



VISIT ONBOARD ISV PATHFINDER



VISIT ONBOARD ISV PATHFINDER

(From left: Mrs Dalida Allagapen Ag. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Housing and Lands, Mr Ashok Kumar Ag. High Commissioner of India, Cdr Rajneesh Kumar Dalal Commanding Officer NCGS Barracuda, Honourable Showkutally Soodhun GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, Lt Commander Pradeep Singh, Officer in Charge Hydrographic Unit and Mr Amit Shukla, First Secretary and Head of Chancery, High Commission of India)



THE ORGANISING TEAM