

## **WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY-2017**

1. In the context of World Hydrography Day-2017 having as theme “**Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways-more important than ever**”, the Hydrographic Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Mauritius, being the nodal agency dealing with hydrographic matters, celebrated World Hydrography Day from 28 to 30 June 2017 at Port Louis harbour. The activities conducted during World Hydrography Day celebrations have been enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. **Opening Ceremony.** The opening ceremony was held onboard **Coast Guard Ship Barracuda**. The Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, His Excellency High Commissioner of India, dignitaries from various Ministries and several stakeholders associated with maritime safety and security, Coastal Zone Management, oceanographic research, environmental protection and port operations were invited for the opening ceremony to showcase hydrographic assets and recent work carried out by the Unit. Mr. F.K Juhoor, Deputy Permanent Secretary coordinated the event as Master of Ceremony and delivered welcome remarks.

(a) **Address by Officer-in-Charge of the Hydrographic Unit, Commander Pradeep Singh.** He informed the audience about the vital role that hydrographic services play towards maritime trade and management of ocean resources. The talk further focussed on efforts required to promote and optimise hydrographic services in Mauritius. He apprised the audience about major tasks carried out by the Unit in the past year while giving an insight into the steps being taken to expand hydrographic services in future. The stakeholders were urged to work together to strengthen and promote hydrographic framework in the future.

(b) **Address by the High Commissioner of India.** His Excellency, Mr. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India spoke about the long standing partnership between India and Mauritius in the field of hydrography as well as other sectors. The High Commissioner informed the audience about the high level of engagement between the two countries in the domain of maritime security. He further affirmed the Indian support for development projects planned by Government of Mauritius for efficient management of ocean resources and outer islands.

(c) **Keynote Address.** The Keynote address was delivered by Honourable Showkutally Soodhun, GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands. The Honourable Vice-Prime Minister talked about the significance of hydrography in the context of Government’s vision to develop ocean based

economy. He highlighted the active cooperation between India and Mauritius in the hydrographic sector and welcomed the fact that all seven Mauritian charts have now been accorded INT status and they are available internationally to mariners. Honourable Vice Prime Minister underlined the contribution of the Unit for national projects in the past year and stressed upon the need to expand capacity to enable full spectrum of operations associated with a hydrographic service. The exhibition of the equipment was then declared open.

(d) **Handing Over of Data for Charting**. The fair-sheet of Survey of Passes (Trou aux Biches to Pointe aux Canonnières) was presented by the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister to the High Commissioner of India for onward despatch to National hydrographic Office, India. The data would be instrumental in updating navigational products of the region and would be useful for navigation through shallow passes. The data would also be shared with stakeholders for maximising its utility.

5. **Visit Onboard CGS Barracuda**. After the opening ceremony, invitees visited the ship for demonstration of nautical products and their use for safe navigation. Invitees were briefed about the roles and capability of the ship and feasibility studies undertaken by the Hydrographic Unit to integrate the ship's sensors with hydrographic data logging suite. Trials have been undertaken in the past for utilising the ship as a sounding platform. The landing craft of the ship is also capable of being used as survey craft during deployment to outer islands. CGS Barracuda was opened for visitors on 28 June 2017.

6. **Exhibition of Survey Equipment**. Open days were organised for students, public officers and public at large from 28-30 June 2017 to create awareness about hydrography and showcase the recent works undertaken by the Hydrographic Unit. A compilation of videos on hydrography was screened for visitors along with exhibition of hydrographic equipment and demonstration of portable equipment onboard survey craft. The exhibition was visited by officials, school and university students.

7. **Views.**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE SHOWKUTALLY SOODHUN, GCSK,  
VICE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LANDS**



**HANDING OVER OF FAIRSHEET TO Sh. ABHAY THAKUR,  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA**



### **VISIT ONBOARD CGS BARRACUDA**

(From left to right: Sh. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India, Mrs Dalida Allagapen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Lands, Honourable Showkutally Soodhun, GCSK, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, Cdr Kunal Bharadwaj, CO of CGS Barracuda)



### **EXHIBITION OF SURVEY EQUIPMENT**



**VISIT ONBOARD SURVEY CRAFT**



**OFFICERS OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS AT EXHIBITION**



**VISIT OF STUDENTS**



**VISIT OF SCHOOL STUDENTS**



**ORGANISING TEAM**