



IHB File N° TA-004-3

CIRCULAR LETTER 20/2006  
8 February 2006

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)  
AND  
THE PORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA  
(PMAWCA)**

- Reference:**
- A) IHO Work Programme 2003-2007
  - B) United Nations Assembly Resolutions:
    - i. 60/30 adopted on 29 November 2005.
    - ii. 59/24 adopted on 17 November 2004.
    - iii. 58/240 adopted on 23 December 2003.

Dear Hydrographer,

As part of the follow-up process of the IHO Work Programme 2003-2007, Task 2.1.2 refers to Western and Central Africa and echoing the references made by the United Nations as regard to African States in the above referenced documents, a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with The Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa (PMAWCA).

PMAWCA is an intergovernmental sub-regional economic organization and a specialised body of the Maritime Organization of the West and Central Africa, whose activities cover a coastline of approximately 95.000 kilometres, aiming to improve and consolidate hydrographic capabilities in the region.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is attached. Member States are requested to provide comments, if any, on the MoU by 1 March 2006. If no negative comments are received, the MoU is intended to be signed on the first appropriate occasion, probably during the FIG Regional Conference that will take place in Accra, Ghana, 7-10 March 2006, where the IHO capacity building efforts, past and present will be presented.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hugo Gorziglia', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Captain Hugo Gorziglia  
Director



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)**

**AND**

**THE PORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA  
(PMAWCA)**



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION (IHO)  
AND  
THE PORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL  
AFRICA (PMAWCA)**

### **1. Parties**

This document constitutes an agreement between the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa (PMAWCA).

### **2. Background**

The IHO and PMAWCA each recognises that the other is an international organisation with responsibilities for activities serving related professional constituencies.

IHO is an intergovernmental organisation of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 75 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices' activities, standardisation of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavor, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. The International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) is the secretariat of the IHO.

Established in 1972 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), PMAWCA is an intergovernmental sub-regional economic organisation and a Specialised Organ of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA). Today, PMAWCA stands as the senior sub-regional institution in West and Central Africa and her activities cover a coastline of approximately 95, 000 kilometers. PMAWCA presently has twenty-three (23) regular members which are principally port authorities and two (2) associate members who are maritime related companies.

PMAWCA's objectives include seeking the improvement, coordination and standardization of equipment and services of member ports, enhance inter-port cooperation with a view to facilitating development of the activities of members, establish and maintain relationships with all transportation undertakings, institutions, associations, international organizations and governments for the study of matters of interest to members and also provide a forum for members of the Association to exchange views on common problems.

### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a regular liaison between the two organisations to improve and consolidate the hydrographic capabilities of Ports Members of the PMAWCA through the co-ordination of training and technical assistance initiatives.



#### **4. Programme of Activities**

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organisations agree to endeavour to increase their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:

1. Regular contact is to be established between the Secretariats of the two organisations in order to identify initiatives of common interest and to agree on the appropriate procedures for the development of specific actions; establishing their objectives, programs and control mechanisms.
2. Each organisation should inform the other of its work programme to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
3. Both organisations should identify opportunities to organise specialised seminars, workshops or courses under joint sponsorship.
4. Each organisation should invite a representative from the other organisation to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

#### **5. Financial Commitment**

It is understood that neither organisation can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organisations.

#### **6. Legal Status**

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organisations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter in force upon the date of signature of both parties, and shall be valid until IHO or PMAWCA proposes changes to it. Each organisation has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organisations.

Any party may at any time denounce this agreement informing the other party by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt. The denouncement shall become effective three months after the date of receipt of the registered letter.

Date: .....

Date: .....

On behalf of IHO

On behalf of PMAWCA

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos  
President IHB  
4, Quai Antoine 1<sup>er</sup>  
BP 445 MC 98011 Monaco CEDEX  
Principality of Monaco

Mrs BACKO, Mireille Francine  
Secretary General PMAWCA  
20, Park Lane Apapa  
P.O. Box 1113 Apapa – Lagos  
Nigeria