



IHB File N° TA-005-5

**CIRCULAR LETTER 80/2010
30 November 2010**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
IHO AND THE PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB has continued to adopt all possible measures to raise awareness on the importance of Hydrography, Nautical Cartography and Marine Safety Information in South and Central America, as well as in the Caribbean. To this end, the IHB has worked with the Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), an intergovernmental regional organization of a technical nature of the Organization of American States.

2 Following an exchange of correspondence, PAIGH has suggested to the IHB that, in order to strengthen the long standing good relations between the IHO and PAIGH, an MoU could be concluded between the two organizations. It was agreed that such an agreement could help joint initiatives to develop hydrography in the region. The agreed text is provided in the annex to this Circular Letter.

3 PAIGH has 21 Member States, out of which 9 are not IHO Member States. The structure of the PAIGH consists of a President, Vice President, a Secretary General and 4 Commissions: Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics. The Directing Committee believes that an MOU between the IHO and the PAIGH might contribute to improving the hydrographic, nautical cartography and marine safety information situation in this region.

4 Member States are kindly invited to examine the attached draft MoU between the IHO and PAIGH and to send their comments, if any, to the Bureau by 01 January 2011.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex: Draft MoU (English Only)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
and
THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
(PAIGH)

1. Parties

This document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Parties.

2. Background

International Hydrographic Organization

The International Hydrographic Organization is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising 80 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardization 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. The IHO Member States have established several Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. For the purpose of this MoU, the relevant RHCs are the Meso American Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), South East Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SEPHC), South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC), US/Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) which provide a focus on the IHO objectives in the region. Those RHC are comprised of Full Members, Associate Members and Observers that contribute to safety of navigation through their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information in the region.

Among the different IHO bodies, the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) is one of particular interest to the purpose of this MOU.

Pan American Institute of Geography and History

PAIGH is an intergovernmental, regional and specialized Organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) with objectives to:

- Encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, geophysical and historical studies and related scientific studies of interest in the Americas.
- Promote and carry out studies, work and training in the cartography, geography, geophysics, history and related scientific studies.
- Promote cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas and with related international organizations.

PAIGH's work is generated by the actions of 4 Commissions: Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics. Within the Cartography Commission several technical committees are organized including the Hydrography Technical Committee (HTC). The objective of the HTC is to promote the technical cooperation and improved understanding of hydrography, nautical cartography and safety of navigation among the national Hydrographic Offices of the Americas with the goal to facilitate the exchange of information relative to hydrographic surveys, investigations and scientific and technical developments within member states. Another complementary establishment of the PAIGH is the Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation Committee which develops capacity and promotes technical cooperation between PAIGH Member States.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing cooperative relationship between the IHO and PAIGH aimed at creating and developing capacity for an efficient and effective use of hydrographic, bathymetric, oceanographic, and geophysical data under a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure concept.

4. Program of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavor to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit.

The following steps will be taken, among others:

- a. In order to maintain and strengthen inter organizational liaison, regular contact will be maintained between the two organizations to address matters of common interest. Common interest items include, but are not limited to, Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building.
- b. Each organization to inform the other of its activities that may be of common interest and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate. This information may be exchanged at meetings of the RHCs or meetings of the PAIGH Hydrography Technical Committee. Reports of meeting proceedings are expected to be made available on the organizations' websites.
- c. In the context of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, both organizations should identify opportunities to contribute to the development of an effective Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) including the need to maximize the efficient collection of hydrographic data by furthering the understanding of data requirements, data holdings and future collection plans.
- d. PAIGH should encourage its MS to provide data from seabed mapping and other relevant data collection activities to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB), data that following DCDB policy shall be open to support all national, regional and international projects.
- e. Each party to promote greater participation of its Member States in the periodic meetings of the relevant bodies of the other organization. (i.e. HTC , RHCs).

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

6. Legal Status

This MoU does not create a legal link between the two organizations which will maintain their mutual independence, and shall enter in force upon the date of signature of both parties.

7. Changes and Amendments

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or PAIGH proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes or amendments in writing to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the consent of both organizations.

8. Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding does not fix any expiry date but it can be terminated at any time by one party writing to the other party, signifying its intention to withdraw from the terms of the MoU. The denouncement shall become effective three months after the date of receipt of the registered letter informing this decision.

Santiago Borrero
Secretary General
PAIGH

Alexandros Maratos
President, Directing Committee
International Hydrographic Bureau

Date:

Date: