



Dossier du BHI N° S3/0103

LETTRE CIRCULAIRE 71/2009  
28 octobre 2009

## PROTOCOLE D'ACCORD ENTRE L'OHI ET L'ASSOCIATION DES ETATS DE LA CARAÏBE

Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur,

1. Le Ministre des affaires étrangères d'Haïti et président de l'Association des Etats de la Caraïbe (ACS) a invité l'OHI à faire une présentation lors de la 14<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil des Ministres de l'ACS, qui s'est tenue à Haïti en janvier 2009 ; l'OHI y était représentée par le CV GORZIGLIA.

2. Au titre du point de l'ordre du jour « Dialogue en matière de coopération », le président du Conseil a invité le représentant de l'OHI à faire une présentation, laquelle portait sur les objectifs de l'OHI ; les concepts généraux de l'hydrographie et de ses applications ; le scénario international en matière d'hydrographie ; l'état de l'hydrographie dans la mer des Caraïbes ; l'Organisation hydrographique internationale. Cette présentation s'est achevée sur un ensemble de propositions, dont celle de conclure un Protocole d'accord entre l'OHI et l'ACS s'il s'avérait qu'un tel mécanisme pouvait contribuer à ce que des initiatives conjointes permettent le développement de l'hydrographie dans la région. Cette proposition a été bien accueillie par le Conseil des Ministres et, depuis lors, le texte d'un protocole d'accord a été élaboré par le BHI et le Secrétariat de l'ACS. Vous trouverez le texte approuvé en annexe à cette lettre circulaire.

3. L'ACS est composée de 25 Etats membres et de trois membres associés. C'est une organisation intergouvernementale internationale qui a pour but des actions concertées en vue de l'avancement de questions d'ordre culturel, économique, social et technique dans la région Caraïbe. La structure de l'ACS comprend le Président du Conseil des Ministres ; un Secrétaire général et six comités : transport, risques naturels, développement commercial, tourisme durable, budget, administration et fonds spéciaux. Le Comité de direction est d'avis qu'un Protocole d'accord entre l'OHI et l'ACS pourrait contribuer à améliorer l'état de l'hydrographie, de la cartographie marine et des renseignements sur la sécurité maritime dans cette région.

4. Il est demandé aux Etats membres de bien vouloir examiner le projet de protocole d'accord ci-joint entre l'OHI et l'ACS et, le cas échéant, de faire parvenir leurs commentaires au Bureau **avant le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 2009**.

Veillez agréer, Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Pour le Comité de direction,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Capitaine de vaisseau Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Directeur

**DRAFT**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)**  
**AND**  
**THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)  
AND  
THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

**1. Parties**

This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes the formal framework for co-operation between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

**2. Background**

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

IHO is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 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. In its endeavour, 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.

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) is an inter-governmental organization of States, Countries and Territories of the Greater Caribbean, established in 1994. The main objective of the Association is to promote consultation, cooperation and concerted action, with the aim of identifying and promoting the implementation of policies and programmes designed to: (a) harness, utilize and develop the collective capabilities of the Greater Caribbean Region to achieve sustained cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological advancement; (b) develop the potential of the Caribbean Sea through interaction among Member States and with third parties; (c) promote an enhanced economic space for trade and investment with opportunities for cooperation and concerted action, in order to increase the benefits which accrue to the peoples of the Caribbean from their resources and assets, including the Caribbean Sea; (d) establish, consolidate and augment, as appropriate, institutional structures and cooperative arrangements responsive to the various cultural identities, developmental needs and normative systems within the region.

The Association has also been assigned the task of prosecuting the thrust by the countries of the Greater Caribbean to have the Caribbean Sea Declared A Special Area in the Context of Sustainable Development and, in that regard, has established a Caribbean Sea Commission, with competencies which permit for positive collaboration with the IHO.

The Association has Members (25); Associate Members (10) and Observers. The Permanent Organs of the Association are the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat.

**3. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a regular liaison between the IHO and the ACS, as well as between the IHO and the Caribbean Sea Commission with a view of improving and consolidating, with their consent and participation, the hydrographic capabilities of the Members of the ACS through the co-ordination of capacity building, training and technical assistance initiatives.

**4. Programme of Activities**

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations 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 organizations in order to identify initiatives of common interest and to agree on the appropriate procedures for the development of specific action; establishing their objectives, programmes and control mechanisms.
2. Each organization shall inform the other of relevant areas of its work programme to enable joint participation in agreed events, as appropriate. The ACS shall be invited as an observer to participate in the meetings of the IHO Meso American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC).
3. Both organizations shall identify opportunities to organize specialized seminars, workshops or courses under joint sponsorship.
4. Each organization shall invite, as appropriate, a representative from the other organization to attend respective meetings and offer complimentary registration. The IHO shall be invited to participate in the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission generally, and as appropriate in the work of the Sub-Commissions.

**5. Financial Commitment**

Neither Party may commit the other to any expenditure, save that arising from the administration of this Memorandum of Understanding, without the explicit written consent of both.

**6. Legal Status**

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their juridical status as subjects of international law.

**7. Entry Into Force**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the date of signature.

**8. Amendments**

Each Party has the right to propose amendments to this Memorandum at any time. Proposed amendments shall be made in writing and subject to mutual consent. Amendments are to be interpreted and applied as being integral to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Any amendment which has a direct or indirect impact on the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission shall be subject to the approval of the Bureau of the Commission before it enters into force.

**9. Termination**

Any party may at any time propose the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding. Proposals for termination shall be in writing and shall take effect three months after the date of notification by the Party proposing such termination. Termination shall not affect the implementation of any activity entered into prior thereto, nor shall it affect the still existing rights and obligations of the Parties.

Date: .....

Date: .....

On behalf of IHO

*(signed)*

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

On behalf of ACS

*(signed)*

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