



ORGANIZACION HIDROGRAFICA INTERNACIONAL

Dossier del BHI N° S3/0103

CIRCULAR No. 71/2009
28 de Octubre del 2009

MEMORANDUM DE ACUERDO ENTRE LA OHI Y LA ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS CARIBEÑOS

Estimado(a) Director(a),

1. El Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores de Haití y Presidente de la Asociación de los Estados Caribeños (ACS) invitó a la OHI a efectuar una presentación durante la 14ª Sesión del Consejo de Ministros de la ACS, que se celebró en Haití en Enero del 2009; la OHI estuvo representada por el Capitán de Navío GORZIGLIA.
2. En el punto del orden del día "Diálogo sobre la Cooperación", el Presidente del Consejo invitó al representante de la OHI a efectuar una presentación. Dicha presentación cubrió los siguientes temas: los objetivos de la OHI; los conceptos generales de la Hidrografía y sus aplicaciones; el escenario internacional relacionado con la Hidrografía; la situación hidrográfica en el Mar Caribe; la Organización Hidrográfica Internacional y, para terminar, una serie de propuestas. Una de estas propuestas fue que podía concluirse un MoU entre la OHI y la ACS, si se consideraba que dicho mecanismo podía ayudar a las iniciativas mixtas a desarrollar la hidrografía en la región. Esta propuesta fue bien acogida por el Consejo de Ministros y, desde entonces, el BHI y la secretaría de la ACS han estado elaborando el texto de un MoU. Se adjunta a esta Circular el Anexo conteniendo el texto convenido (*en Inglés únicamente*).
3. La ACS tiene 25 Estados Miembros y 3 Miembros Asociados. Es una organización internacional intergubernamental cuyo objetivo es llegar a acciones concertadas para progresar en asuntos culturales, económicos, sociales, científicos y técnicos en la Región del Caribe. La estructura de la ACS consiste en el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros; un Secretario General y 6 Comités: Transportes, Peligros Naturales, Desarrollo del Comercio, Turismo, Presupuesto y Administración Sostenibles y Fondos Especiales. El Comité Directivo cree que un MoU entre la OHI y la ACS podría contribuir a mejorar la situación de la hidrografía, la cartografía náutica y la información sobre la seguridad marítima en esta región.
4. Se ruega gentilmente a los Estados Miembros que examinen el proyecto de MoU entre la OHI y la ACS y que envíen sus comentarios, de haberlos, al Bureau **antes del 1 de Diciembre del 2009**.

En nombre del Comité Directivo
Atentamente,

Capitán de Navío Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Anexo: Proyecto de MoU.

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

On behalf of ACS

(signed)

(signed)

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos
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Principality of Monaco

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