

CBSC13
 México, City, 27-29 May 2015
 Paper for Consideration by CBSC

STRENGTHEN OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC ABILITIES IN MESOAMERICA AND THE
 CARIBBEAN SEA

Submitted by:	MACHC CB SUBCOMMITTEE.
Executive Summary:	Strengthen the hydrographic abilities in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean sea through the standardization of the nautical cartography which drives the maritime and economic development and guarantee the safety of the maritime navigation.
Related Documents:	FOCAHIMECA operation rules (appendix A). Document of the Association of the Caribbean States C:074/2015/AD
Related Projects:	None.

Introduction/Background:

In the VI Chiefs of States Summit and/or Government of the AEC, celebrated in Merida Yucatan, Mexico, on April 2014, it was communicated everything related to the project “Short distance maritime transportation (TMCD in Spanish) / Interconnectivity to facilitate trade”, financed by the Mexican government, with the support of the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for the Development (AMEXCID in Spanish). In this framework, the Mexican Hydrography Management identified the necessity of updating / creating nautical cartography of the ports and navigation routes that considers the TMCD.

In order to materialize the real hydrographic abilities in the Caribbean States and Central America that allow them to update / create paper and electronic nautical charts, The Mexican Hydrographic Management, considered necessary to create a parallel project to the TMCD, which named: “Strengthen the hydrographic abilities in Mesoamerican and the Caribbean sea” (FOCAHIMECA in Spanish).

In that sense the Mexican Government has invited the Association of Caribbean States (AEC in Spanish), to call its member states to a work meeting on next June 8th and 9th 2015 in the city of Panama, with the goal of formalizing such project.

The States invited to participate are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Dominica, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Rep., Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Mexico.

These States will be asked to adopt the responsibilities of developing the following activities to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the project:

1. To participate in all the training activities carried out, considering for such goal, that the technical staff is directly related with the creation /updating of the official nautical cartography in each participant state in the framework of the current project.

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2. Receiving with pleasure the Mexican State offering of acting as a coordinator for the integration of the workshops and training courses, which will be responsible of the availability of the trainers and the information necessary for giving the courses.
3. Receiving with pleasure the Mexican State offering of giving the financial resources for transportation expenses, lodging and travel allowances of the participants that attend the first two training workshops of the current year.
4. Request to the AEC the financial resources necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the project FOCAHIMECA. The AEC in coordination with the Mexican State will carry out the management of assigning the resources before the organisms of international Banking System.
5. Receiving with pleasure the integration of the International Organizations in the FOCAHIMECA project, who will provide their collaboration by teaching courses and training workshops in the hydrographic area.
6. Contributing with the organizations designating technical personnel to attend the courses and workshops scheduled by these organizations in Latin America and achieve a higher number of attendees, collaborating with a part of the attendance costs (transportation and lodging) with resources from the project FOCAHIMECA.
7. Prove the Hydrographic abilities obtained in FOCAHIMECA project through obtaining the bathymetry data in the maritime zone convenient for short distance maritime transportation, which has to be given to the Maritime Economic Infrastructure Program (MEIP in Spanish) of the Mesoamerica and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC in Spanish). The specifications for this purpose will be described in a document to be defined (TBD).
8. All the personnel that receive the training in the framework of Project FOCAHIMECA, should prove their creation of hydrographic abilities by achieving the certification of the Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) before the ending of the project.
9. Not fulfilling points 7 and 8 will exclude the State from receiving equipment and hydrographic software by the end of the project.

Analysis/Discussion:

The Project has a scientific and technical nature and will not include issues that have international political matters.

The Mexican State will act as a coordinator for the integration of the workshops and training courses and will be responsible of the availability of the trainers and the information necessary for giving the courses.

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The Mexican State will provide the financial resources for transportation expenses, lodging and travel allowances of the participants that attend the first two training workshops of the year 2015.

The Project considers inviting for participating 25 countries, which show their interest of participating and there are willing to acquire the commitment of attending and participating in all the reunions and workshops. Of the invited States only 9 are members of the International Hydrographic Organization, which indicates that these states have a hydrographic interest, thus the organization has to take the opportunity that the project FOCAHIMECA presents, to incorporate them as members.

The official language of the courses and workshops will be Spanish with English simultaneous translations.

The states will request the Association of Caribbean States (AEC in Spanish), the financial resources necessary for the achievement of the objectives of FOCAHIMECA project. The AEC in coordination with the Mexican State will perform the management of assigning the resources before the International Banking System organisms, for which the International Hydrographic Organization has the opportunity of incorporating South American states to the activities of creation of abilities of this project.

The Directive Committee of FOCAHIMECA, it will be formed by a President and two Vice-presidents. The Directive Committee will be in charge of administering according to the dispositions of the Project and Regulations and according to the directives given in the first meeting of authorities. The Directive Committee will be in charge of ensuring that the participants of the project perform the missions given to them. The International Hydrographic Organization has the opportunity of participating as advisory member of the committee, with the goal of providing information about the development and updating of standards and hydrographic technologies which it considers useful for FOCAHIMECA project.

The International Hydrographic Organization can help the Directive Committee in the maintenance of a close relationship with the Hydrographic Service of the member states. It can also collaborate in the collaboration relationships with scientific organizations linked to the member Governments.

The international Hydrographic Organization can be informed through the MACHC about the activities carried out during the past near period.

Conclusions:

- 1.- The International Hydrographic Organization should participate in FOCAHIMECA Project to take advantage of the opportunity that represents the integration of the 16 States that are not members and show hydrographic interest.

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- 2.- The International Hydrographic Organization should incorporate the South American States to the activities of creation of abilities of this Project, making the most of the financial resources and assistance given by it.
- 3.- La Organización Hidrográfica Internacional debe participar como miembro consultivo del Comité Directivo, con el fin de proporcionar información sobre el desarrollo y actualización de estándares y tecnologías hidrográficas que considere útiles al proyecto FOCAHIMECA.

Recommendations:

- 1.- To communicate as soon as possible with the Association of Caribbean States to express their maximum interest of incorporating to FOCAHIMECA project.
- 2.- That the CBSC assigns an amount of resources of the budget of the years 2016 and 2017, equal to a percentage of the budget that the FOCAHIMECA has destined to each training course to include the participation of the South American States.
- 3.- That the Creation of Abilities Subcommittee of the MACHC serves as advisor of the Directive Committee of the FOCAHIMECA.

Justification and impacts:

- 1.- When participating in FOCAHIMECA Project the Organization increases their potential of incorporating 16 States as members.
- 2.- By including member States of the Organization of South America in the activities of FOCAHIMECA project, the organization avoids the expense that involves the organization, infrastructure, trainers creation and manufacture of the teaching material. At the same time, the organization increases its influence in the states of Mesoamerica.
- 3.- The commissions and the work groups of the organization, are actively involved in the development of the standards and hydrographic technologies for maintaining the cartographic product received by the navigator in agreement with the development of computing technologies and communication, which develop rapidly. FOCAHIMECA project is multiannual, thus it requires the advice of the organization, a task that is mission of the organization itself.

Action required of CSPCWG:

1. That the 13CBSC takes note of the present report.

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2. That the 13CBSC votes in favor of adopting the recommendations before mentioned, this being an independent voting process for each recommendation.
3. That the CBSC informs the IRCC about the results obtained in the voting performed, and the justifications and impacts for the organization.