

15th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC15
Paramaribo, Suriname, 7-9 June 2017

SWPHC Report

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Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWPHC

1. Introduction / Background

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are geographically remote and fragmented; they face a major development challenge in achieving safe, reliable, and efficient connectivity within the region and with the rest of the world. The maritime sector plays a key role in supporting economic growth and development in PICTs by facilitating trade and commerce and by improving people's ability to travel for health, education, employment, and to interact with other communities.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

The table in the **Annex** provides an assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States in the region, in accordance with the CB Procedure 11 (draft).

3 CBWP activities conducted since CBSC14

3.1 2016 CBWP A-01 (Technical Assessment & Advice – Samoa)

Carried out 8-12 August 2016 (LINZ led). Report submitted to IHO Secretariat in May 2017.

3.2 2016 CBWP A-03 (Technical Assessment & Advice – Tuvalu)

Carried out 2-13 November 2016 (UKHO led). Report submitted to IHO Secretariat in February 2017.

3.3 2016 CBWP P-14 (MSI Regional Workshop)

Workshop held in Wellington, New Zealand on 22-24 August 2016 (LINZ led). Attended by 17 participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

3.4 2016 CBWP P-08 (Technical Workshop for PICTs in Formulating and Implementing Strategic Development Plans for Hydrography)

Workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia on 28-29 November 2016 – linked with SWPHC14. Led by LINZ, with presenters from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and IALA. Attended by 31 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, IALA, IHO Secretariat, GEBCO and SPC.

4. Activities planned for 2017

4.1 2017 CBWP P-09 (SW Pacific Region Industry Survey Project)

This will be an innovative, collaborative effort from industry, IHO MS, SPC and appropriate donor programmes to conduct hydrographic surveys aligned with Phase 2 capacity building activities. Dates for the activity to be advised (SPC & UKHO)

4.2 2017 CBWP P-10 (MBES Training in Fiji)

This training will enhance the knowledge of Fiji Navy Hydrographic Service to operate MBES and process MBES data to meet IHO standards. Dates for the activity to be advised (SPC & UKHO).

4.3 2017 CBWP P-25 (Solomon Islands Nautical Cartographer Development)

The planned activity is to train a new recruit to Cat B standards in Module One (cartography) to provide support to other Solomon Islands Cartographer and PCA. However, the Solomon Islands has been unable to recruit a new cartographer so far, and requested that this activity be carried forward to 2018 (AHS).

4.4 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)

Commenced in April 2015, PRNI is a 5 year programme focusing on navigation-related aspects of maritime safety, and builds on the success of the SWPRHP. It is a partnership between NZ MFAT, LINZ and the Pacific Community (SPC).

LINZ has a focus on five Pacific Island Countries (PICs) where it is the Primary Charting Authority (PCA) - Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tokelau. SPC has a focus on Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

PRNI has 5 output areas: Pacific-wide Data Discovery, Hydrography Risk Assessments (Niue, Samoa and Tokelau), Capability/Capacity Building, Mitigation Measures and Pacific-wide Partnerships

Since CBSC14, LINZ has engaged with:

- Cook Islands have established the Cook Islands National Hydrographic Coordinating Committee; the Cook Islands Hydrographic Service; and appointed a National MSI Coordinator (September 2016);
- Cook Islands IALA Stage 2 Technical Needs Assessment completed (July 2016);
- Samoa IHO Technical Assessment visit (August 2016) to raise awareness of obligations under SOLAS V/9;
- Samoa have established the Samoa National Hydrography Committee (May 2017);
- Tonga's National Hydrographic Committee convened October 2016 to prioritise Mitigation Measures

The Samoa Hydrography Risk Assessment will be completed by June 2017. This activity has been led by LINZ utilizing in-house GIS expertise; and contracted Maritime domain expertise. It will deliver the risk model implementation in a GIS, as well as the spatial data inputs that feed into it and the results it creates.

5. Challenges faced in the region

- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region
 - Cost of travel is high, opportunities for meetings limited.
- Capacity of the Capacity Builders.

- More, potentially too much, is being asked of the RHCs and RHC Chairs; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities

6. Achievements and lessons learned

All PICTs have made progress on hydrographic activities, and in the case of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu it has been significant.

Vanuatu became an IHO Member in 2017 and Solomon Islands is in the process of becoming a Member.

New Zealand developed a GIS-based risk assessment methodology to determine surveying and charting priorities, and to date has effectively used this for work in the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu.

New Zealand's PRNI to improve maritime safety throughout the region – includes hydrography risk assessment for Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, capacity building to assist PICTs reach Phase 1 of IHO CB Strategy, in particular establishment of National MSI Coordinator position

- In 2016 the government of Cook Islands approved the establishment of the National Hydrographic Service, a National Hydrographic Coordinating Committee; and a National MSI Coordinator
- In early 2017 Vanuatu Parliament approved the establishment of 'Office of the Maritime Regulator' – function to include “controls over hydrographic surveys and dissemination of survey data, preparation and approval of charts and surveys for maritime purposes and the issue of notices to mariners
- In early 2017 the government of Samoa approved the establishment of the Samoa Hydrography Committee

New Zealand has signed Bilateral Arrangements with Cook Islands and Niue, and is progressing bilaterals with Tonga and Samoa.

Australia is working with UKHO and SIMSA to assume PCA role for Solomon Islands in early 2017

SWPHC Statutes amended to reflect selection of State/s that will occupy seat/s on IHO Council allocated to SWPHC.

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the 2016 workshop and meeting attended by approx. 50 persons, many of which were from PICTs. All participants were extremely active and contributed to collective and own knowledge of hydrography.

7. Conclusions

SWPHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Note the value and effectiveness of preceding SWPHC meetings with CB related workshops.
- c. Note the Solomon Islands inability to recruit a new cartographer so far, and requested that this activity be carried forward to 2018.
- d. Note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.
- e. Note the logo adopted by SWPHC.
