

**17th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC17
Genoa, Italy, 29 May – 31 May 2019**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC17

North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) Report

Submitted by:	NIOHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at NIOHC.
Related Documents:	NIOHC CB Plan 2018-2020
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

A three-year plan for CB activity in the NIOHC region was approved by the membership in July 2017. This plan covers the period 2018-2020 and is reviewed annually (during NIOHC meetings) to ensure it meets regional requirements. The plan is based on assessing the phase of development of each of the coastal states within the NIOHC region (as determined by the IHO's three phases of CB) and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS treaty obligations. There is a great deal of 'SOLAS awareness' required in this region.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

See Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)

3. Activities completed since CBSC16

- Survey Technician Training for Mauritius
- Senior Survey Technician Training for Mauritius
- Phase 1 Skills Training course was held in Goa, India in January 2019 led by the UK and supported by India. Invitation to participate was extended to RSAHC and countries that attended were:

Mauritius, Myanmar, Oman, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Iran

4. Activities planned for 2019

- Seminar on Raising Hydrographic Awareness, held in Muscat, Oman
- MBES Processing Course

5. Challenges faced in the region

The Indian Ocean provides major sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia with Europe and the Americas. It carries a particularly heavy traffic of petroleum and petroleum products from the oilfields of the Persian Gulf and Indonesia. Every year some 100,000 cargo ships pass through the Indian Ocean, as well as 66% of the world's oil shipments. Large reserves of hydrocarbons are being tapped in the offshore areas of Saudi Arabia, Iran and India. An estimated 40% of the world's offshore oil production comes from the Indian Ocean. Beach

sands rich in heavy minerals and offshore placer deposits are actively exploited by bordering countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. For these reasons, it is crucial that SOLAS contracting Governments undertake hydrographic surveys as and when required, that they arrange for the compilation and publication of hydrographic data, the dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.

One of the most significant challenges the NIOHC faces is engaging with the Red Sea maritime states, some of whom remain very difficult to communicate with. Much work is required in building and developing sustainable Hydrographic services in these states. This also applies to the Maldives.

Very few of these Red Sea states are IHO members so don't qualify for the higher-level training opportunities which are only available to members.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

With the onus on the development of Phase 1 capability – the 2017 MSI course followed a similar course in late 2014 – Phase 1 skills are slowly being improved.

NIOHC19 received its best ever attendance consisting of 70 delegates from 19 countries. This included representation from Somalia and Yemen, enabling a greater awareness of hydrographic activity across the NIOHC community.

There is close coordination between the NIOHC CB Coordinator and their counterpart in the RSAHC, with CB activities being opened up to RSAHC Members. This collaboration will allow greater benefits to be realized from the CB fund.

India has been very active over many years in developing hydrographic services in Mauritius. This also applies to several other IO nations.

In 2018 Indonesia and Pakistan were successfully gained places on the IHO-Nippon Foundation Cat B Cartographic course conducted by the UKHO.

7. Conclusions:

Greater engagement from the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden maritime states was gained through the provision of CB funding for participation at the hydrographic awareness seminar which preceded the 2019 NIOHC meeting. Previous experience has proved that funding the attendance of Associate and Observer nations not only guarantees attendance but also showcases the importance of regional hydrography and how all coastal states have a part to play, irrespective of size. Participants found attendance beneficial and the seminar helped them to gain greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities as coastal states.

The Indian and UK Government's contribution to regional capacity building has augmented the IHO's efforts and undoubtedly improved both the education and data gathering regionally.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- b. take any action consider appropriate.

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Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)