

**SECOND MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC2
New Orleans, USA, 17 – 18 June 2010**

ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC) REPORT 2009-2010

Reference:

- A. IRCC Circular Letter 01/2010 dated 8 Mar 10.
- B. 3rd RSAHC Meeting report dated 10 Apr 10.

1. The RSAHC held its 3rd meeting in Monaco 8-9 June 2009 on completion of the EHC. The meeting was chaired by Pakistan and attended by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman; UK and USA attended as Associate Members and the IHB as observers. There were just sufficient members present to form a quorum. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain were not present.

2. Numerous topics were covered at the meeting, including ENC issues, progress on the implementation of the regional INT Chart scheme, promulgation of Radio Navigation Warnings and Capacity Building matters. The Sultanate of Oman was elected as chair and Qatar as vice-chair.

3. The major event of the period has been the hosting of the IHO's 5th MSI Training Course in Muscat, Oman 26-28 October 2009. Students from 7 countries in the NIO and RSA HC areas joined 6 students from the Sultanate for this highly successful course. Disappointingly, apart from the Sultanate and IR of Iran, there were no participants from the Gulf Region.

4. One Royal Navy of Oman staff member from the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO) attended the 5 week IHO CBC cartographic course in Singapore in March 2010. This proved to be a highly valuable course and experience with significant immediate benefits to ONHO and the provision of MSI services, as the same individual also attended the MSI course in Muscat in October.

5. There are significant challenges and there is no doubt RSAHC is finding it difficult to gain traction. There remains much work to be done to raise the level of awareness of the importance of hydrography and the safety of navigation within the region.