

## **ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC) REPORT 2010-2011**

Reference:

A. IRCC Circular Letter 01/2011 dated 16 Mar 11.

1. The RSAHC held its 4th meeting in Muscat 21-22 March 2011. The meeting was chaired by the Sultanate of Oman and attended by official delegates from Pakistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman; UK and USA attended as Associate Members and the IHB, the Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Service (AMNAS) from Oman and the Department of Transport – Maritime Section from Abu Dhabi as observers. UAE and the Islamic Republic of Iran were not present, the latter due to a visa mix-up.

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 for a further term.

3. One Royal Navy of Oman staff member from the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO) attended a 5 week ENC bursary course at UKHO in Taunton in July 2010. This proved to be a highly valuable course and experience with significant immediate benefits to ONHO.

4. Despite the success of RSAHC4, there remain significant challenges and much work to be done to raise the level of awareness of the importance of hydrography and the safety of navigation within the region.