



## North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) Report to IRCC4



**Chair:** Rear Admiral Nick Lambert (UK) June 2010 to July 2012  
Rear Admiral Saroj KUMAR JHA (India) July 2012 onwards

**Vice Chair:** Vacant June 2010 to July 2012  
R. Adm Charin Boonmoh (Thailand) July 2012 onwards

**Members:** Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom.

**Associate Members:** Australia, France, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Seychelles, USA.

**Observers:** IHB, Malaysia, Sudan, EUNAVFOR, GEBCO, IOC, Caris, Esri, Fugro Survey, IIC Technologies, Jeppeson, Kongsberg, Pelydryn.

**1. The 12th NIOHC meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka 20th – 23rd March 2012** (attendees underlined above).

### 2. Status of IRCC3 Actions:

***IRCC03/01 Implement actions to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline.***

NIOHC Chair to send letters to MS to encourage ratification.

***IRCC03/02 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.***

MS were encouraged by both IHB President (V. Admiral Maratos) and NIOHC Chair (R. Admiral Nick Lambert (UK)) to approve pending applications.

***IRCC03/07 Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.***

Admiral Vasan of Saudi Arabia was nominated to represent NIOHC on the IHR Editorial Board.

***IRCC03/09 UK to lead the design of a framework for C-55 development by correspondence.***

UKHO updated the NIOHC membership on the latest position with regard to C-55 development. Essentially the correspondence group had been successful - noting the exceptional assistance of the BSHC - and the IRCC Chairman was able to produce a report to the XVIII IHC which recommended a way forward.

***IRCC03/12 Ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.***

The NIOHC CB Coordinator makes every effort to comply with this provision.

***IRCC03/13 Report to the WENDWG Chair on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis submitted by the WENDWG***

Reported to WENDWG Chair

**IRCC03/15 Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles.**

Comments provided.

**IRCC03/17 Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.**

Member of GEBCO attended the 12<sup>th</sup> NIOHC conference in Sri Lanka.

**IRCC03/18 Update the report to IRCC Chair on the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of international chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010).**

Update provided.

**IRCC03/19 Report to IRCC4 on:**

**a. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005),**

Discussions held at 12<sup>th</sup> NIOHC and Disaster Plan updated.

**b. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.**

Discussions held at 12<sup>th</sup> NIOHC and all nations within region contacted to attend.

### **3. Main items under consideration:**

#### 3.1. INT Chart Scheme

India as Region J INT chart coordinator provided an update on the INT chart scheme.

#### 3.2. ENC coverage

A working group of ENC producing nations took place prior to the plenary in which items of importance were discussed in a more technical forum.

The Chair (UK) provided diagrams of current ENC coverage within the NIOHC region for consideration by the WG.

#### 3.3. Capacity Building (CB)

The NIOHC established a five year capacity building plan for the region and is available on the NIOHC IHO website. From this plan proposals were put forward to the CBSC for consideration.

#### 3.4. NIOICCWG

The formation of an NIOHC International Charting Coordination Working Group (IRCC Action No. 02/14) was discussed and agreed by the members present. India was voted in a chair and UK as vice chair and the working groups Terms of Reference was established.

A proposal to produce an ENC scheme for the region was considered taking into about not only current ENC producers but also those planning to produce. The scheme will be put together by the NIOICCWG.

#### 3.5. Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI)

The conference highlighted the importance of MSDI in relation to economic prosperity particularly to island nations.

### 3.6. Satellite Bathymetry

SHOM provided a presentation on their work they have been carrying out in relation to obtaining hydrographic data through satellite images. The delegates asked the HSSC chair to task a working group to look into introducing a CATZOC standard for this data.

### 3.7. Voluntary IMO Member States Audit (VIMSAS)

UK presented on behalf of the IMO on the responsibilities of signatories of the IMO SOLAS regulations. MS found the talk beneficial and will be followed up at the 13<sup>th</sup> NIOHC conference.

### 3.8. Crowd Sourcing Survey Techniques

Delegates were introduced to the theory of crowd sourcing and that the data although sparse could be used within products as some data is better than no data. Further information would be needed to consider crowd sourced data within products.

## 4. General aspects

The commission would like to highlight that ENC coverage of the region is progressing well and that the small number of gaps are in the process of being addressed.

Australia joined the commission as an Associate Member and signed the statutes at the 18<sup>th</sup> IHC.

The commission incorporated its first industry/stakeholder day within the annual conference. The delegates found the information contained within the day most beneficial as talks from anti-piracy experts, stakeholders and industry; the chair will organise another next conference aligned with the agenda at the next conference.

## 5. Conclusions

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

The commission would like to build on the considerable progress in expanding conference attendance and industry participation made over the last few years.

## 6. Next meeting: Myanmar, February/March 2013

## 7. Proposals

The IRCC (and the WEND-WG) are invited to note this report.