



REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC7

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral Tom Karsten, (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chair: Captain Mir Imadatul Haque, (Bangladesh)

2. Membership

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

Associate member(s): Australia, France, Oman, Mauritius, Seychelles, USA.

Observers: Malaysia.

3. Meetings:

Last meeting: 15th NIOHC, 16 - 18 March 2015, Muscat, Oman.

Next meeting: 16th NIOHC, 14 - 16 March 2016, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

4. Current NIOHC Working Groups:

a) North Indian Ocean ICCWG (NICCWG)

On-going coordination of INT charting and ENC coverage within the NIOHC region.

b) Capacity Building

Capacity building activities since IRCC6 have included:

- Technical visit to Jordan
- Advanced ENC production courses in Bangladesh and Myanmar
- Joint MSI course run with RSAHC

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the NIOHC)

IRCC6/01 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership. RHC Chairs, Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014, Permanent. *Complete, covered under agenda item 5.1 IHB report at NIOHC15.*

IRCC6/02 Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention. RHC Chairs, Report to IRCC Chair, Dec 2014, Permanent. *Complete, covered under agenda item 5.1 IHB report at NIOHC15.*

IRCC6/03 Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences. RHC Chairs Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014 Permanent, Complete. *Complete, stakeholders invited to attend the NIOHC meeting in Muscat.*

IRCC6/08 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. RHCs/GEBCO, Report to IRCC Chair, Dec 2014, Permanent. *Complete, GEBCO attended the 15th NIOHC.*

IRCC6/09 Encourage MSs and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible use is made of Satellite Derived Bathymetry. RHC Chairs, Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014, Permanent. *Complete, Satellite Derived Bathymetry discussed at 15th NIOHC.*

IRCC6/15 Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO. RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies, Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014 Permanent. *MS requested to submit suitable material to IHB.*

IRCC6/28 Encourage National Hydrographers to invest in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English. RHC Chairs, Permanent. *Complete, MS encouraged to invest in training.*

IRCC6/40 Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC, and between ENCs from different producers. RHC Chairs, Permanent. *Complete, covered under NICCWG.*

6. Agenda Items:

For the full agenda see the NIOHC page on the IHO website but highlights worthy of note are:

IHO / IHB Matters – included IHB Report, NIOHC report to IRCC5, IRCC6 Report, WEND-WG Report, HSSC6 report, EIHC, P-5 Update, C-55 and MSDI. These topics were beneficial in updating all MS on the wider activities of the IHO and encouraging participation of the technical side of IHO.

Maximising Hydrographic Data – presentation on the paper first submitted by MACHC at IRCC6; well received by MS.

Towards Data Centricity – introduction of the concept and encouragement of MS to look at data as an asset and not just a means to produce a product. MS agreed to add this as a standing agenda item for the NIOHC.

Uses of AIS – presentation on the possible future uses of AIS data.

7. NIOHC cooperation with other organizations:

At the 15th NIOHC meeting in Muscat, Oman delegates from GEBCO, IALA, PERSGA (Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of

Aden) and CMF (Combined Maritime Forces) were in attendance and enhanced the depth of the meeting.

8. Conclusions:

Eight out of nine MS and a total of 50 delegates attended the 15th meeting which led to fruitful discussions. MS proposed the following topics to be noted at IRCC7:

- Bangladesh's experience in data collection and product generation within a dynamic river environment. Note: a paper will be put to IRCC8 for discussion;
- Maximising Hydrographic Data, NIOHC would encourage IRCC to produce an IHO resolution;
- Discussions on Data Centricity and inclusion as a NIOHC standing agenda item and possible general RHC standing agenda item;
- Concerns over the cooperation in relation to INT coordinators:
 - Chart allocation – lack of communication between regional coordinators to resolve issues
 - Same chart being allocated 2 separate INT numbers within 2 regions
 - Encouragement of adjoining regional coordinators to attend NIOHC

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

Although there is still much to do within the NIOHC region with regard to capacity building to allow MS to be self-sufficient, progress is being made and training obtained from CBSC and other providers at a steady pace.

INT chart production is increasing and thus the scheme is increasing in both coverage and currency.

ENC production in the region has been deemed acceptable for UB1-3; MS are continuing to refine the scheme and coverage for changing shipping patterns and developments.

9. Actions required from the IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- Note this report;
- Note the NIOHC support for an IHO resolution on Maximising Hydrographic Data;
- Encourage greater communication between ICCWG coordinators.

Rear Admiral Tom Karsten
NIOHC Chair