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**S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2010**

**Follow-up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the S-23 WG  
(Singapore, 5-7 July 2010)**

**To:** S-23 WG Members (see list at Annex A) and participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG Meeting not shown in Annex A

**References:** a) S-23 WG Letter 01/2010 dated 10 May 2010  
b) S-23 WG Letter 02/2010 dated 11 June 2010

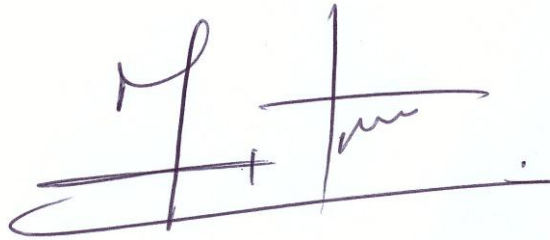
Dear Members of the WG and participants in the meeting in Singapore,

I would like to thank all those who participated in the second face-to-face meeting that took place 5-7 July in Singapore for their constructive contribution. I would like especially on behalf of all the participants to thank Dr. Parry Oei, the Chief Hydrographer of the Hydrographic Department of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and his Staff for the excellent arrangements that he put in place in organizing this meeting very successfully.

It has to be noted that progress has been achieved in the difficult and sensitive issues under consideration. In brief it can be highlighted that:

- The members of the S-23 WG reached an agreement on the issue of Malacca and Singapore Straits;
- Progress was made in examining the proposals by China in the South China Sea – East China Sea. Some still pending issues will be considered by correspondence;
- The members of the S-23 WG were presented with the positions of Japan, Republic of Korea and Democratic People Republic of Korea concerning the name in the area between the Korean Peninsula and Japanese Archipelago. Four new proposals by Australia, France, Japan and Republic of Korea, will soon be made available to the members of the WG for consideration.

The minutes of the meeting and a table with the decisions and actions will soon be circulated to participants for their comments, before they are finalized and posted on the IHO website. For preparation purposes, please find attached "draft outcomes" of the meeting, which will be also enclosed with the minutes.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping strokes. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,  
IHB President and Chairman of the S-23 WG

Enclosures:      Annex A – S-23 WG Membership List  
                         Annex B – Draft outcomes list

Copy to the IHO Member States bordering the areas of concern.

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(July 2010)

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2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IHO S-23 Working Group  
Singapore, 5-7 July 2010

DRAFT OUTCOMES

1. Proposals by India

- a. To move Malacca Strait from Chapter 6 (South China Sea and Eastern Archipelagic Seas) to Chapter 5 (Indian Ocean).

*Due to their significance for international navigation, the WG agreed that Malacca and Singapore Straits be considered an independent area forming a separate administrative division in S-23.*

- b. To change the western limit of Malacca Strait from T. Jamboaye – Lem Phra Chao to Pedropunt - Lem Phra Chao.

*Amendment of the western limit of Malacca Strait, as proposed by India, was agreed by the WG.*

2. Proposals by China

- a. To consider South China Sea an independent area forming a separate administrative division in S-23.

*The WG position was to defer consideration of China's proposal to make South China Sea an independent area within S-23.*

- b. To subsume Natuna Sea into South China Sea, so that the southern limit of South China Sea would be the same as in the 1953 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of S-23.

*The WG position was not to include Natuna Sea in the South China Sea, as proposed by China. China to re-consider their position and/or provide additional information to the Chair for circulation to WG members.*

- c. To rename Beibu Gulf the existing Gulf of Tonkin, based on a 2005 agreement with Vietnam.

*The name Beibu Gulf, as proposed by China instead of Gulf of Tonkin, was agreed in principle by the WG. China to provide the Chair with the official agreement with Vietnam and information on actual technical usage, for circulation to WG members. Based on the responses received, the Chair to propose a way forward.*

- d. To consider Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tonkin) a sub-body of South China Sea.

*The WG agreed that Gulf of Tonkin / Beibu Gulf be considered a sub-body of the South China Sea, as proposed by China.*

- e. To slightly amend the northern limit of South China Sea.

*Alteration of South China Sea's northern limit, as proposed by China, was agreed by the WG.*

- f. To consider Taiwan Strait a sub-body of East China Sea.

*The WG concluded that Taiwan should remain a separate body.*

- g. To amend to Taiwan Dao the name of this island.

*Meeting participants to provide to the Chair their views on China's proposal to name the island Taiwan Dao instead of Taiwan, by end of July 2010. Based on the responses received, the Chair will propose a way forward.*

- h. To change East China Sea' southern limit, from Hateruma Shima – Fu-kuei Chao to Hateruma Shima – Amlanan – E'luan Bi, so as to include a portion of the existing Philippine Sea in the East China Sea.

*The WG concluded that the existing limit should be retained.*

- i. To remove Liadong Wan as a sub-body of Bo Hai.

*China's proposal to remove Liaodong Wan as a sub-body of Bo Hai was agreed by the WG.*

- j. To consider Bo Hai a separate body from Yellow Sea.

*Separation of Bo Hai from Yellow Sea, as proposed by China, was agreed in principle by the WG. China to provide written technical justification to the Chair who will circulate it to the WG members for final approval.*

- k. To amend the line of demarcation between Bo Hai and Yellow Sea.

*The new line of demarcation between Bo Hai and Yellow Sea, as proposed by China, is agreed in principle. China and USA to provide the Chair with written technical justification for their respective proposals. These, together with IHB findings on the justification for the existing line dating back to 1986, will be circulated to WG members for final approval.*

- l. To amend the eastern limit of the Yellow Sea.

*Bilateral discussions to take place between China and Rep of Korea regarding the changes proposed by China on the eastern limit of the Yellow Sea. Outcome of these discussions to be sent to the Chair by end of July 2010 for circulation to the WG members.*

- m. To correct the spelling of several geographical names, and add some new names, relating to South China Sea and East China Sea (re: section 9 of China's paper in S-23WG2-11A, Part 10).

*The spelling corrections for various geographical names and the addition of new names in the South China Sea and East China Sea, as proposed by China, were agreed by the WG, noting that the issues of Beibu Gulf / Gulf of Tonkin and Taiwan / Taiwan Dao have been addressed in § 2.c and 2.g, respectively.*

### **3. Sea area between the Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago.**

*Australia, France, Japan and Republic of Korea to provide the Chair with their proposals for circulation to the members of the WG. WG members to provide the Chair, by the end of August 2010, with their views on these proposals. Based on the responses received, Chair will propose a way forward.*

### **4. Gulf / Sea of Oman.**

*The WG examined the letter received at the IHB from the Sultanate of Oman and did not support the proposed change from Gulf of Oman to Sea of Oman. IHB to provide Oman with historical information on the limits of the Strait of Ormuz.*

### **5. Morocco's requests.**

*Change from Ras Espartel to Ras Spartel, as proposed by Morocco, was agreed by the WG. The WG position was not to change from Punta Almina to Ras Almina, as proposed by Morocco.*