

**11th EAthC-CHAto MEETING
ACCRA, GHANA 24-26 November 2010**

NATIONAL REPORT –NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

1. Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office has been the coordinating centre of all hydrographic surveys in Nigeria and it is headed by the Hydrographer of the Navy. The principal functions of the department include: Conduct of Hydrographic surveys, Charts production and publication of tidal prediction tables for Nigerian Ports amongst others.

2. The 2010 WHD Celebration was held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State and officials of the organization participated actively in making the event a huge success with seminars and exhibition.

3. As a follow up to the recommendations of the West African Action Team (WAAT) that visited Nigeria from 25-28 October 2005, the Department in collaboration with other Maritime stakeholders in Nigeria has taken steps to ensure the implementation of WAAT report despite the daunting challenges. The Department has made some achievements in the following areas during the period under review:

DESSIMINATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION

4. The department in collaboration with other stakeholders set up a Technical Working Group for hydrography in Nigeria. The work of the group resulted in the establishment of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) portal at the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) which is a bold step towards attainment of the 3 phase IHO capacity building initiative. The web portal at (www.nigeriamsi.com) is used for collection and dissemination of MSI to ships operating in NAV AREA II. The MSI provide an immediate advantage to international shipping and allows for real integration of the country into the World Wide Navigational Warning Services (WWNWS).

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

5. The Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School located in Port Harcourt and run by the Nigerian Navy, offers the Survey Recorders (SR) courses namely: SR III and SR II courses. Currently, there is no provision for training of Officers in both basic and long hydrographic courses. The department is working towards having FIG/IHO accreditation for the survey recorders courses.

Some of the achievements related to hydrographic training during the period under review are:

- a. An official of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency participated in the Maritime Safety Information Course in Ghana from 14-21 September 2009.
- b. Some officers of the department, in conjunction with United States Navy participated in the Joint Hydrographic Training under the umbrella of the African Partnership Station (APS) in March 2009.

- c. Two officers, one from the Navy and the other from the Nigerian Maritime Administration underwent training in CARIS HIPS/SIPS post processing software in the Netherlands in September 2010.
 - d. Presently, 2 officers of the Navy are undergoing Cat A hydrographic training in the University of New Hampshire United States of America.
 - e. An officer of the Navy is also scheduled for Cat A Hydrographic training in February 2010, at the University of Otago, New Zealand.
 - f. Two Navy officers are currently surveying the approaches to Lagos; in conjunction with US Navy.
6. **NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA)**
- a. NPA carried out the Bathymetric Survey of the Calabar River in preparation for dredging of the Access Channel to Calabar Port using the Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES).
 - b. NPA adopted and procured the Hypack Hydrographic Software for Hydrographic data collection, processing and dredging volume computations. Training on the software was carried out in Lagos by the software developers from the USA through their West African Representative.
 - c. Four NPA officials (Professional Surveyors and Others) recently attended the Multibeam Training in Denmark in preparation for the acquisition of MBES.

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- d. Regular Surveys of the two major River Channels namely Lagos and Bonny, were carried out by NPA in conjunction with the Joint Venture Partners Lagos Channel Management (LCM) Bonny Channel Company (BCC) and the data/charts forwarded to the UKHO for quality control validation and the proposed Chart revision scheme.

- e. Regular Surveys of the Ports/Channels Aids to Navigation are also carried out and data incorporated in the Charts generated. The use of the Automated Identification System (AIS) was recently introduced to monitor the position of the Buoys especially the Fairway Buoys which are critical to safe navigation.

- f. Dredging Surveys were also carried out for siltation monitoring purposes.

- g. NPA officers (Surveyors and Cartographers) also attended the UKHO Data Management course in the UK.

- h. An NPA official (also the Vice President of the Nigerian Hydrographic Society) attended the 2010 FIG Conference in Australia and presented a paper on 'Capacity Building and the Economic Benefits of Hydrography'.

- i. Wreck Surveys of the Lagos Channel was carried out using the Side Scan Sonar with the SBES in preparation for the Wreck removal campaign. The Wreck removal campaign was recently flagged off by the Honourable Minister of Transport (HMOT) for the Lagos Harbour. A total of 24 critical wrecks (contacts) identified are to be removed. This is already in progress.

j. Tidal and current measurements are also being carried out for various purposes within the Ports. ADCP measurements were recently undertaken for the siltation studies recently concluded for the Lagos Harbour.

k. The yearly Dredging Conference was held in Calabar and attended by NPA officials. Key presentations were made on the Role of Hydrographers in the Dredging operations.

l. NPA also hosted the Nigerian Hydrographic Society meetings/Seminars and collaborated with NNHO / University of Lagos- Department of Surveying and Geoinformatics, in creating the desired awareness on Hydrography in Nigeria.

7. **NIGERIAN HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY (NHS)**

(a) The NHS conducted a National election and elected officials of the society to manage its affairs.

(b) The NHS also created three zonal branches namely; Lagos, Warri and Port Harcourt to manage the affairs of the society at the state levels. The branches have been effective and contributing to the development of the society.

(c) The NHS and NNHO hosted and supported the EAtHC Secretariat in Nigeria.

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(d) The NHS recently recruited an Administrative Secretary (an MSc graduate of Int'l Law & Diplomacy – MILD) to manage and coordinate the affairs of the NHS Secretariat.

(e) The NHS National/local officials and members in general, contributed and supported the WHD event in PH.

(f) The NHS National Executive also recently approved and adopted the revised Constitution of the NHS incorporating vital sections such as the NHS Research and Consultancy unit.

PARTICIPATION IN IHO WORKING GROUPS

8. The department is currently involved in the activities of 2 IHO working groups namely: Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) and Hydrography and Catography of Inland Waters Working Group (HCIWWG). The participation of the department is aimed at improving hydrographic services in Nigeria and capacity building

PROSPECTS

- . Attainment of 3 phases IHO capacity building initiatives.
- . Establishment of National Hydrographic Commission (NHC) as the central coordinating body for all hydrographic surveys in Nigeria.

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