



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter 16/ 2010
13 August 2010

Mr. Edas Muñoz Galeano
Director
Unidad Regional de Coordinación del Programa (URCP) Golfo de Honduras
Edificio TRAINMAR, Planta Baja a un costado,
Empresa Nacional Portuaria (ENP)
Puerto Cortés, Honduras

Subject: **Invitation to the XIth MACHC Meeting**

Dear Mr. Munoz,

You are cordially invited to attend the the 11th meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization's MesoAmerican - Caribbean Sea Regional Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) that will be held in Paramaribo, Suriname on November 8-12, 2010. The registration form, hotel and other logistical information can be found on the MACHC website: <http://www.iho-machc.org/meetings/welcome.html>

As the Gulf of Honduras (GOH) Project Director, you are well aware of the role of the MACHC (particularly through its Electronic Chart Committee—ECC) has played in this project over the past five years, to support and strengthen hydrographic and Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) production capacity in Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize.

In Suriname, the MACHC Electronic Chart Committee (ECC), including representatives from the three GOH countries, will have focused and detailed preliminary discussions regarding the next steps in this ongoing support, and there will be a report on the status of these efforts later in the week during the MACHC plenary session.

To date, two years of hydrographic survey training have been provided to the GoH countries with funding from the IHO Capacity Building Committee (CBC). I am pleased to report that the CBC has approved a third year of funding for training in 2011. Therefore, as in past years, a face-to-face meeting is planned to share lessons learned to date and prepare for next year's training session.

The pre-MACHC discussion on the Gulf of Honduras Project hydrographic activities will be held on Monday, November 8, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30, so you should plan to arrive no later than Sunday, November 7. All countries are asked to come prepared to discuss the lessons learned from the in-country hydrographic training in 2010 and help plan for the training anticipated in 2011. The results of this meeting will be reported to the MACHC plenary session later in the week.

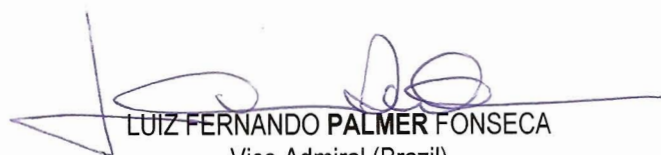
I also invite you to provide a general update of the Gulf of Honduras project during the MACHC plenary under the Agenda Item 8: MACHC Relationships with Other Organizations. A detailed agenda will be forthcoming.

re

Please contact the MACHC ECC Chair, Ms. Katie Ries, (kathryn.ries@noaa.gov) to confirm your participation and arrival date and time. Also, please be aware that if you need to travel through any United States airport on the way to Barbados, you must acquire a transit visa from a U.S. Embassy prior to your trip. Furthermore, be sure to make arrangements for a Suriname visa, as per the meeting information on the MACHC website referred to above.

I hope that you will be able to attend this MACHC Conference and I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,



LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA

Vice Admiral (Brazil)

Brazilian Director of Hydrography and Navigation - MACHC Chair

Copy:

Ms. Katie Ries, MACHC/ECC Chair

DIRETORIA DE HIDROGRAFIA E NAVEGAÇÃO, Rua Barão de Jaceguay, S/Nº, Ponta da Armação – Centro, CEP 24048-900 - Niterói, RJ, Tel. (+55 21) 2189-3014 - e-mail: <int.rel@mar.mar.mil.br>

Note: To improve the Commission's effectiveness, this letter is provided only by e-mail.