



11th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
New Delhi, India
1st March to 2nd MARCH 2011

Dear NIOHC Colleagues,

I wish to inform you that I have received an informal request for a commercial company (Fugro) representative to attend the NIOHC meeting in March.

Our records indicate that commercial companies have not been represented at previous NIOHC meetings and I am therefore mindful that this request will set a precedent for attendance by other commercial companies. It is worthwhile mentioning that PRIMAR and IC-ENC occasionally attend Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings but they do so as independent non-profit organizations. Commercial companies also attend other RHC meetings (Fugro, Kongsberg and Caris attended the recent MACHC in Surinam for example).

The NIOHC statutes (Article 5g) indicate that those organizations which are active in the fields of hydrography (including training, nautical charting, nautical information or aids to navigation) in the NIOHC region may be invited to send observers to its meetings.

Since the NIOHC is an intergovernmental body I will advise Fugro that they should formally request observer attendance at the NIOHC meeting. The request to the Chairman of the NIOHC should outline the company's activities in the region and proposed contribution to agenda items. I intend informing Fugro of this course of action on Monday 7th February 2011, unless I receive objections by member states beforehand.

Finally, I much look forward to an informative and productive meeting in New Delhi.

Rear Admiral Nicholas Lambert
NIOHC Chairman

Distribution:
List of Representatives
IHB