

**NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING 2012 AT COLOMBO,
SRILANKA – NATIONAL REPORT BY THE GENERAL COMMISSION FOR SURVEY IN THE
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE/SERVICE :** THE GENERAL COMMISSION FOR SURVEY (GCS) HAS BEEN MANDATED BY THE GOVT FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS AND CHARTING WITHIN THE SAUDI MARINE AREAS. THE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL SERVICE IS MET BY THE GOVERNMENT. GCS IS HEADED BY A PRESIDENT AND THE HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT IS HEADED BY A DIRECTOR GENERAL , WITH AN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT IS BEING GRADULLY BUILTUP.
2. **SURVEYS :** GCS HAS EMBARKED UPON HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS AND CHARTING PROGRAMME TO MEET THE NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. FRESH SURVEYS ARE BEING CONDUCTED TO PRODUCE ENC_s AND PNC_s(PAPER NAUTICAL CHARTS) . A NEW 16 METRE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY LAUNCH WITH COMPLETE SUITE OF HYDROGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS HAS BEEN INDUCTED AT JEDDAH FOR MEETING THE PRACTICAL TRAINING NEEDS OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC TRAINING SECTION AND FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN NEARBY AREAS.
3. **NEW CHARTS AND UPDATES :** THE GCS HAS FORMULATED A CHARTING SCHEME FOR SAUDI MARINE AREAS TO MEET VARIOUS USER NEEDS (INCLUDING SAFETY OF NAVIGATION) ON DIFFERENT SCALES. WITH NEW SURVEYS DATA . ENC_s AND PNC_s ARE PLANNED TO BE PRODUCED ACCORDING TO THE STRINGENT STANDARDS OF THE IHO. 20 ENC_s COVERING PART OF THE RED SEA ARE PLANNED FOR PRODUCTION IN 2012. THE ENTIRE RED SEA AND ARABIAN GULF AREAS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COVERED BY ENC_s &PNC_s WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS. IT IS PLANNED TO MARKET THESE ENC_s FOR WORDWIDE USE UNDER BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS . IT IS ALSO PLANNED TO PRODUCE SOME CHARTS AS **INT** CHARTS UNDER THE IHO STANDARDS. UPDATING OF THE PUBLISHED CHARTS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AS PER IHO/IMO STANDARDS , IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKE HOLDERS IN THE KINGDOM.
4. **NEW PUBLICATIONS AND UPDATES :** THE NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME IS PLANNED TO START BY MID 2012 WITH REQUISITE MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION . IT IS ANTICIPATED THE GCS NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE READY ONLY BY END 2013.
5. **MSI:** IT IS PLANNED TO ACTIVATE THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN BY END OF 2012 , AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STAKEHOLDERS AND PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE .
6. **IHO STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS(S 55) STATUS :** STATUS IS ANNEXED IN DIAGRAM

7. **CAPACITY BUILDING:** SOME MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN HYDROGRAPHY RELATED TO (A) IHO CAT "B" TRAINING IN HYDROGRAPHY AND MARINE CARTOGRAPHY (B) HYDROGRAPHIC DATA POST PROCESSING AND QC/QA. (C)HYDROGRAPHIC PROJECT SURVEYS WITH HRD AND (D) DEPUTATION OF GCS PERSONNEL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPOSURE.

8. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES :

(A) 12 STATIONS NATIONAL TIDE GAUGE NETWORK COVERING THE ENTIRE SAUDI COASTAL BELT WITH REAL TIME DATA FLOW AT GCS IS OPERATIONAL WITH HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(HRD) THEREON . (B) MARINE SCIENCES DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING FOR USE BY SOME STAKEHOLDERS IN THE KINGDOM IS PLANNED .

8. OTHER ACTIVITIES:

(A) GCS HAS A SEPARATE "GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CENTRE(GIC) " , WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE MARINE SPATIAL DATA .

9. **CONCLUSION:** THE GCS IS SET TO SURVEY AND CHART THE SAUDI MARINE AREAS WITH MANY USER ORIENTED PROGRAMMES AND CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN THE KSA.

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS FOR ENC/PNCs DURING 2011 and 2012

