

From: **Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE**
The UK National Hydrographer
and NIOHC Chair



NIOHC Letter No. 9/2018

19 December 2018

To: Members, Associate Members, and Observers of the IHO North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)

Subject: Invitation to the 19th Conference of the NIOHC

Dear NIOHC Colleagues,

I have pleasure to officially invite you to the 19th Conference of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC), which will be hosted by United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), in Muscat, Oman, from 26th to 28th March 2019. This will be preceded by a Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (NIOHC Letter No. 7/2018) and the NIOHC INT Chart Coordinating Working Group (NICCWG) on 25th March 2019.

A provisional agenda for the 19th NIOHC Conference is attached at Annex A. You are requested to review this draft and to provide your comments/suggestions for changes. The draft minutes of the 18th NIOHC Conference are available from the IHO website:

https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/NIOHC/NIOHC18/NIOHC18-22.1-Meeting_Report-Draft_v1.0.pdf. This includes a number of actions, which are provided in Annex B.

Action items resulting from the NIOHC18 NICCWG are provided in Annex C. The NICCWG allows for INT Chart Producers of Region H and all NIOHC recipients of an INT Chart service to interact and discuss specific requirements and shortcomings in the charting service provided.

A logistics information document is attached at Annex D and a registration form attached at Annex E. All delegates are kindly requested to send their completed registration forms to Miss Su Marks by 25th January 2019, e-mail: su.marks@ukho.gov.uk and international.relationsukho@ukho.gov.uk. Phone: +44 1823 483614. This will facilitate the overall logistic planning and the preparation of the conference.

Yours sincerely

Chairman North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)

Enclosures: Annex A - Draft Agenda 19th NIOHC Conference
Annex B - Status of Actions resulting from the 18th NIOHC Conference
Annex C - Actions resulting from NIOHC18 ICCWG
Annex D - Logistics Information
Annex E - Registration Form



19th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
Muscat, Oman
25th to 28th March 2019

Draft Agenda

1. Official Opening Session

- 1.1 Opening Remarks by the Chairman
- 1.2 Keynote address by the Chief Guest (*tbc*)
- 1.3 Presentation of memento to Chief Guest (*tbc*) - followed by Group Photo

2. Administrative Arrangements (*Chair*)

- 2.1 Opening Remarks by Hosts
- 2.2 Opening Remarks by the IHO Director

3. Approval of Agenda (*Chair/All*)

4. Approval of 18th NIOHC Minutes (*Chair/All*)

5. Review of 18th NIOHC Actions List (*Chair/All*)

6. NIOHC Statutes

7. IHO Matters

- 7.1 IHO Secretariat Report (*IHO Director*)
- 7.2 2nd Council Report (*Chair on behalf of India*)
- 7.3 IRCC10 Report (Inter Regional Coordination Committee) (*IHO Director*)
- 7.4 WENDWG9 Report (Worldwide ENC Database - Working Group) (*Chair on behalf of India*)
- 7.5 HSSC10 Report (Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee) (*IHO Director*)
- 7.6 IHO Year Book P-5 (*IHO Director*)
- 7.7 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide C-55 (*IHO Director*)
- 7.8 Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) (*IHO Director*)

8. National Reports (*Members*)

Members:

- 8.1A National Report: Bangladesh
- 8.1B National Report: Egypt
- 8.1C National Report: India
- 8.1D National Report: Indonesia
- 8.1E National Report: Myanmar
- 8.1F National Report: Pakistan
- 8.1G National Report: Saudi Arabia
- 8.1H National Report: Sri Lanka
- 8.1I National Report: Thailand

8.1J National Report: United Kingdom

9. Industry presentations (session 1 of 2)

10. National Reports (*Associate Members*)

Associate Members:

10.1K National Report: Australia

10.1L National Report: France

10.1M National Report: Oman

10.1N National Report: Mauritius

10.1O National Report: Seychelles

10.1P National Report: USA

11. Industry presentations (session 2 of 2)

12. NIOHC Committees and Working Groups

12.1 North Indian Ocean Chart Coordination Working Group (NIOHC19 NICCWG)
(*tbc*)

12.2 North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Capacity Building (*CB Coordinator*)

13. Relevant International Organizations' Report.

13.1 International Maritime Organisation (IMO) - Member State Audits

13.2 General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)

13.3 International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

13.4 Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

13.5 Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENC)

14. Maritime Safety and the World Wide Navigational Warnings Service (*India*)

15. Experience in dealing with maritime disasters in relation with IHO guidelines

16. Regional MSDI

17. Blue Economy

18. Actions arising from IRCC10

19. Regional Issues/Challenges - Papers

20. Any Other Business (*Chair*)

21. NIOHC input to IHO meetings (Closed Session) (*Chair*)

21.1 3rd IHO Council considerations

21.2 NIOHC Report to IRCC11

22. Date and Venue of the next meeting

23. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

24. Approval of the Action List

25. Closing Remarks from the Chair

26. Handing over of NIOHC Flag to the new Chair



18th NIOHC CONFERENCE ACTION ITEMS

No.	Agenda Item	Action	Action By	Deadline	Status
1	3.1	Investigate ways to encourage engagement with Jordan, Maldives and Sudan to progress towards their becoming members of NIOHC and IHO	Chair	Ongoing	Ongoing
2	3.2	Member States are encouraged to participate in IHO meetings (IRCC, HSSC, WEND-WG & MSDIWG etc).	All		Ongoing
3	4.1	Chair to invite Indonesia to sign the NIOHC statutes and forward to the IHO Secretariat.	Indonesia	Indonesia may forward the signed statutes to IHO keeping NIOHC informed by end May 2018	Open
4	4.2	Add international organizations as official Observers for e.g. (PERSGA, IALA), NIOHC states to consider other relevant regional organizations and provide details to the Chair.	Chair to invite International and regional bodies.	MS to recommend regional and local organisations by Nov 2018	Open
5	5.2	Capt. Peush Pawsey, IN nominated as NIOHC rep to IHR editorial board			Action completed
6	5.4.2	Encourage NIOHC states to make ENC's available through RENC		Ongoing	Ongoing

7	5.4.2	Encourage NIOHC states to make currently held data publicly available and discoverable.			Ongoing	Ongoing
8	5.4.2	MS to forward comments views on CSB to Chair. Chair to forward comments to IRCC	All Member States		01 May 2018 15 May 2018	Closed - time expired
9	5.4.2	Consider provision of shallow water data to the IHO DCDB for use in the GEBCO			Ongoing	Ongoing
10	5.4.2	UK to provide feedback on NSHC CSB trial	UK		NIOHC 19	Open
11	5.4.2.8	Consider nomination of an RHC MSDI Ambassador to promote the establishment of national MSDI as part of the national SDI management			Ongoing	Ongoing
12	5.4.3	Forward NIOHC report to WEND WG	Chairman NICCWG		end April 2018	Not completed
13	5.4.4	Forward NIOHC report to IRCCIO	Chair		10 May 2018	Complete
14	5.5	Review published data and provide updates to C55 and P5 at least once per year	All Members		31 Dec every year	Ongoing
15	9	Circulate letter requesting bids for CB activities for submission to CBSC17	CB Coordinator UK is Coordinator		Report submission CBSC 17 Member states to submit bids by 31 Dec 2018.	Open
16	11.5	Improve provision of navigational warning information from national coordinators to NAVAREA VIII and NAVAREA IX Coordinators	Area 'J' countries are to share information with appropriate NAVAREA Coordinators		Ongoing	Ongoing

17	11.5	Engage with future work of the IMO-ITU EG and GMDSS CG	Member States		Open
18	11.5	Cross check C-55 and GMDSS Master Plan Annex 7 and 8 entries to ensure harmonization of information		Ongoing	Ongoing
19	17.4	Provide details of tide gauges and currents meters for inclusion in the Inventory of National Tide Gauges and Current Meters on the TWCWG page of the IHO website	Member States	Ongoing	Ongoing
20	17.4	Provide URLs to real-time online tides and currents websites for inclusion in the Actual Tides and Currents On-line Links on the TWCWG page of the IHO website	Member States	Ongoing	Ongoing
21		Chair to report back IHO- EU Network WG activity from IRCC to NIOHC MS		NIOHC 19	Open
22	17.4	Circulate list actions to MS by Mid Apr 18 and minutes by Mid May 18	Chair		Complete
23	18	Circulate draft NICCWG minutes by end Apr 18	NICCWG Chair		Complete



NICCWG MEETING- NIOHC 18 ACTION ITEMS

No.	Agenda Item	Action	Action By	Deadline
(a)	5.1	(i) INT chart producers to assess their allocated INT charts within region J with regards last update and currency they contain. Provide information to NICCWG coordinator for review. (ii) Continue to provide updates to S11 through India as Chair of the NICCWG for Region J		Ongoing
(b)	7.1	Updates on Publication information of INT charts to be conveyed to NICCWG Coordinator (India)	All INT Chart Producers	31Dec16
(c)	7.1	Sri Lanka to put up proposal to NICCWG Coordinator (India) for a large-scale chart for Hambantota.	Sri Lanka	As soon as possible
(d)	7.1	Saudi Arabia to put up proposals for INT Charts for their waters, if any	Saudi Arabia	Whenever ready
(e)	7.1	Outstanding action points of NIOHC Pakistan to notify the Region I ICCWG Coordinator (IR of Iran) the need to commence discussion with Region J INT Chart		Prior to RSAHC meeting

		Coordinator to resolve the cross Coverage issue of INT751		
(f)	7.1	Adequate time (01 day) to be allocated for NICCWG meeting to allow fruitful discussion		Ongoing
1	2(a) 5.1	Member States to provide INT Chart updates to the NICCWG Coordinator Area 'J'.		By Members
2	2(b) 7.1	Amending relevant paragraph in S11 Part 'A' pertaining to Monitoring of INT Charts (Para 3.14) for production and forwarding the first edition of New INT Charts to the NICCWG members. The paragraph 3.14.1 (a) is proposed to be amended as "New INT Charts producer nations are to provide the first edition of any INT charts in pdf. format to the relevant Regional INT chart coordinator and the members of ICCWG for review as soon as convenient during the production cycle. Timeline for return is 02 months from acknowledgement of receipt. After that time, it would be considered as approval and printed		By Chair/IHO
3	2(f) 7.1	The Chairman and Vice Chairman urged the members to keep the INT GIS updated with the currency of data.		All members by 30 Jun 2018



19th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
Muscat, Oman
25th to 28th March 2019

Logistics

The 19th meeting of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) will take place at Grand Millennium Muscat hotel, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Muscat, Oman's port capital, sits on the Gulf of Oman surrounded by mountains and desert. With history dating back to antiquity, it mixes high-rises and upscale shopping malls with cliff-top landmarks such as the 16th-century Portuguese forts, Al Jalali and Mirani, looming over Muscat Harbour. Its modern, marble-clad Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, with 50m dome and prodigious Persian carpet, can accommodate 20,000 people.

Muscat International Airport, formerly Seeb International Airport, is the main international airport in Oman and is situated 32 km from the old city and capital Muscat within the Muscat metropolitan area

A limited number of rooms have been block booked at the hotel. A special group rate of 50 Omani Rials per night for a single per night for a single room, bed and breakfast including 17% tax and service charge. This rate also includes internet access, coffee & tea making facilities in the room and use of the Health Club and Swimming pool.

Main Conference Hotel:



Grand Millennium Muscat hotel

Dohat al Adab Street Al Khuwair Muscat, Sultanate of Oman 133, 118 Muscat, Oman

[Grand Millennium Dohat al Adab Street Al Khuwair 133, Muscat, Oman](#) «Muscat
22 342222

Tel No.: +968 (2) 2302255

Email: nour.elbandak@millenniumhotels.com

Website: <https://www.millenniumhotels.com/>

For any room reservation please send your request to(grous.gmm@millenniumhotels.com/) with room block code. In case of any difficulties in booking, delegates may send an email to Ms Nour El Bandak (nour.elbandak@millenniumhotels.com) with the booking code, MICE Sales Manage; ONHO will also be happy to assist in case of any further difficulties.

Block code: 240319NAVY

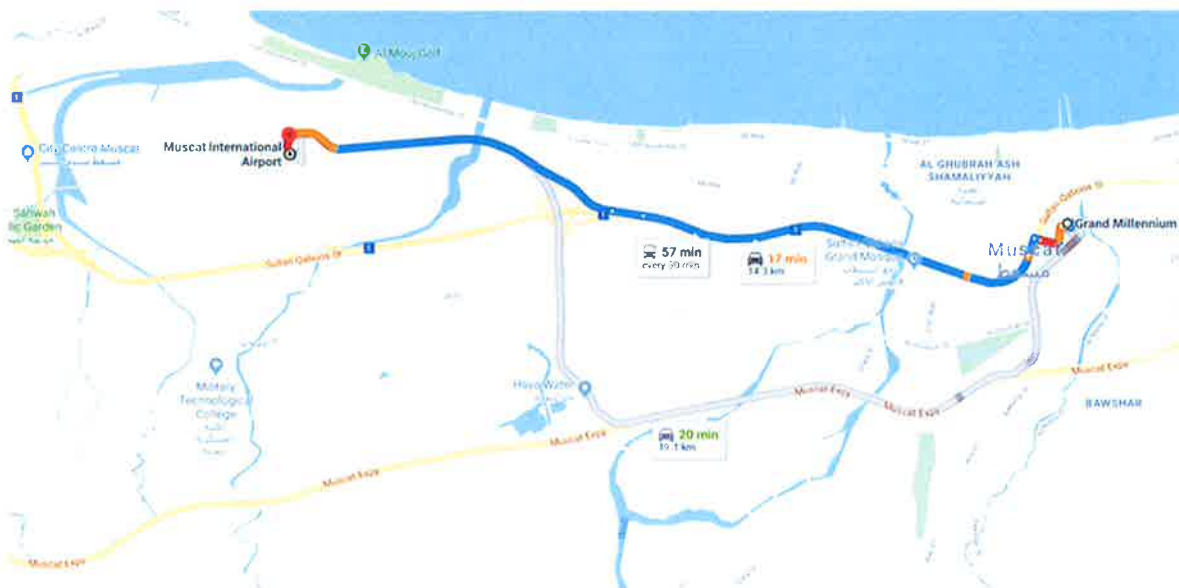
Please have the following information available when booking:

- a. Guest first and Last name
- b. Nationality
- c. Passport Details
- d. Arrival Time
- e. Flight details



Transport

Grand Millennium Muscat hotel is 14 km from Muscat International Airport and approximately 17 minutes transfer time to the hotel. Transport between the Muscat International Airport and Grand Millennium Muscat hotel will be provided by Oman National Hydrographic Office. Delegates are kindly requested to send their flight details to (nhooman@omantel.net.om), cc:(juma.albusaidi@mod.gov.om) (ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om) as soon as possible.



Another Optional Hotel (located opposite Grand Millennium):

Park Inn by Radisson Muscat

P.O. Box 1635 Al Khuwair Sultan Qaboos Street P.C. 133 Muscat Sultanate of Oman +968 (2) 4507888

Website: <http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-muscat>

Reservations

Phone: + 968 2450 7888

Fax: + 968 2450 7799

Email: reservations.muscat@parkinn.com

Visa Requirements

Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter Oman, more information <http://www.rop.gov.om/arabic/index.html>

Anyone requiring visa assistance or a letter of invitation from the Sultanate of Oman is requested to contact Lt Cdr Ahmed from Oman National Hydrographic Office (ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om), cc: (nhooman@omantel.net.om). For the visa to be processed, delegates are requested to forward a copy of their passport, 2 scanned photos passport size and mothers name. Delegates are requested to send the details as early as possible, not later than 1st March 2019. ONHO will try its best for late requests.

Historical Sites

The following historical attractions can be visited and are near the Grand Millennium Muscat hotel.

- Al Alam Royal Palace
- Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque
- Muttrah Souq in Muscat
- Royal Opera House In Muscat
- The National Museum of Oman
- Muscat Gate Museum

What is the weather like?

The expected weather for March 2019 in Muscat, The temperature ranges between 20° to 30°C with a mostly clear sky. The humidity typically ranges between 30 to 82%. The average wind speed is usually calm to moderate breeze.

What electricity supply is used?

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Sultanate of Oman are the "Type G" British BS-1363 type. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter to plug in.





19th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING
Muscat, Oman - 26th to 28th March 2019

REGISTRATION FORM

Please send the completed registration form to the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) via email to: Ms. Helen Bailey Helen.Bailey@ukho.gov.uk and NIOHC Secretariat Su.Marks@ukho.gov.uk and cc to juma.albusaidi@mod.gov.om ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om at the Oman Hydrographic Office.

Member State / Organization	
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1. Contact Details

Head or Member of delegation	
Rank or Title (Mr/Mrs/Capt. etc):	
Family Name ¹ :	
Given Name:	
Preferred Name:	
Position/Job Title/Role:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Spouse/Partner travelling	
Special Dietary Requirements:	

¹ Underline name generally used in case of double surnames.

2. Participation Please indicate if you would like to attend the Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography, on 25th March 2019:

Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (Yes/No)	
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3. Travel Details (For administrative purposes only). Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements.

Your arrival in Muscat, Oman		Your departure from Muscat, Oman	
Date:		Date:	
Flight Number/Airline:		Flight Number/Airline:	
Arrival Time:		Departure Time:	

4. Accommodation Information (For administrative purposes only). Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements.

Hotel booking	Yes/No
Grand Millennium	
Other (provide name of hotel)	

Please remember to allow sufficient time for a visa if required.

More information can be obtained from: Helen Bailey, UKHO International Technical Engagement,
Tel: +44 (0) 1823 483077

5. **Signature:**

Date: