

# **1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) Meeting**

**Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

**09 - 11 Feb. 2014**

## **Status of ENC Coverage in the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC)**

### **Introduction**

The IHO reconfirmed to the IMO, at its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of NAV in 2008, that there would be “sufficient ENC availability” by year 2010. At the same meeting, NAV accepted a proposal from the International Chamber of Shipping, and supported by the IHO, for the following definition of “sufficient ENC coverage” in relation to considering mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS:

‘Sufficient ENC availability is defined as being equivalent to the available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the Coastal State’.

This implies that, by year 2010 where there is a paper chart published to support international voyages, there should be a corresponding ENC. Since that time, due to some technical and infrastructural difficulties that some coastal states are facing some problems in order to meet the set date requirements, therefore IMO had expanded that date to 2014.

So far in our region, Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan were become member of IC-ENC, and I.R. of Iran, by signing a bilateral contract with PRIMAR RENC on February of 2013, had become the third State in the RSA region to be a member of one of the RENCs.

### **Conclusions**

So far Kingdom of Bahrain, Pakistan and I.R. of Iran had become a member of one of the RENCs in order to publish their standard ENC Charts.

I.R. of Iran on February of 2013 had signed an official bilateral agreement with PRIMAR which is coordinating the world’s first Regional ENC Centre (RENC) and Operates on a non-profit basis by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service in close cooperation with Electronic Chart Centre (ECC).

In this regard and after signing a bilateral agreement with PRIMAR, I.R. of Iran by inviting from PRIMAR’s staff , managed a 4 days ENC workshop in Tehran from 07- 10 Sept. 2013 . This workshop was a very good introduction workshop for ENC. Also for the practical purposes, this workshop had practical sessions as well, for the Iranian ENC Producers to be familiar with the requirements of the ENC.

By going through this training workshop the Iranian ENC producers have earned the ability of producing and publishing this ENC Charts. So far more than 100 ENC Charts are available from I. R. of Iran to be send to PRIMAR , in which according to their agreement these charts will be send in 10 cells each time for final checks and accreditation process and distribution to PRIMAR. At this time there is no further

information from other RSA Member States, in regard with these ENC productions, since no updates are being provided to I. R. of Iran. Taking in to consideration the importance of this issue all RSA Member States are kindly requested to provide sufficient information in this regard twice a year to the ENC Coordinator to enable us to update the chairman of the commission as well as the IHO. Also it is strongly recommended that members seek assistance from other producer nations, under the terms of bi-lateral agreement.

Finally we would like to discuss this matter in this meeting in order to put in the report of the meeting to encourage all members of RSA to provide their information with regard to ENC production to this coordinator in the timely manner.

Thank you