



**5th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)
AR RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
4-6 March 2013**

FINAL REPORT

Section numbering relates to Agenda numbering.

Note All RSAC5 Documents are available from the IHO website:

http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/RSAHC/RSAHC5/RSAHC5.htm

The opening ceremony for the 5th meeting of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) commenced at 0945 on 04 March 2013. His Excellency Morayyea Hassan Al Shahrani, president of the General Commission for Survey addressed the meeting and welcomed the participants, see Enclosure 1 to this Report for the full text. He was followed by speeches from the Chairman of RSAHC, Commander Thani Harith al Mahrouki, Director of Oman National Hydrographic Office, and IHB Director, Rear Admiral (Ret) Mustafa Iptes.

1. Opening remarks by RSAHC Chairman and IHB.

The Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting. He commenced by giving a brief overview of activities since RSAHC4 which was held in Muscat in March 2011. Since the last meeting, RSAHC was represented by the Chairman at IRCC3, IRCC4, CBSC9, CBSC10 and at the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference (XVIII IHC) held in Monaco 23 to 27 April 2012. Annual reports to each IRCC had been provided and a report covering the period 2007-2012 was also provided to XVIII IHC.

The Chairman added, a 5 year Capacity Building (CB) plan (2013-2017) was submitted to CBSC with annual submissions of training requirements. He stated that 3 technical visits for 2012 to Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar had not been undertaken but hoped they would be programmed soon or replaced. He also added that issues related to CB would be covered in detail under Agenda Item 13.

He highlighted that more regular meetings were now being undertaken and he stressed that this was a sign of a more focused and committed cooperation in the region for the future. He noted the importance of RSAHC input to the safety of navigation in the region and cooperation in the fields of hydrography, cartography and nautical information.

The Chairman indicated that France had applied to become an Associate Member of the RSAHC. Highlighting her long engagement in the fields of hydrographic and oceanographic data gathering in the region, he added that France would bring considerable additional benefits to RSAHC. France was unanimously welcomed as an associate member.

IHO Director, Mustafa Iptes, gave a brief overview of ongoing IHO activities. He underlined the importance of the work done by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and reiterated that IHO actively encourages and supports the activities of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, including the RSAHC, to coordinate hydrographic and nautical charting services on a regional basis under the umbrella of the IRCC. He also expressed the vision and priorities of the new Directing Committee of the IHB which are: raising the profile and awareness of the IHO and its roles, obtaining capacity building funding from additional aid donors, achieving the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention and increasing the membership of the IHO.

IHO Director highlighted the main roles of the IHO-Capacity Building programme which is a strategic objective of the Organization and emphasized that IHO needs more funds and contributions for effectively implementing the IHO CB Programme in order to improve safety of navigation at sea and protect the marine environment. He also noted that the success of the IHO depends on the support of the RHCs and Member States and he invited the participants to contribute to the IHO committees and working groups as much as possible.

2. Administrative arrangements.

Saudi Arabia General Commission for Survey outlined the administrative arrangements for the meeting. The Chairman noted that Ms Ahlam Al Kharusia, Marine Science Officer from Oman National Hydrographic Office would be acting as secretary for the meeting.

The Chairman then asked the delegates to introduce themselves. The Chairman noted Bahrain and Kuwait were not represented. The Chairman concluded a quorum was present in accordance with the statutes.

3. Approval of the Agenda and Timetable.

The agenda was approved and the timetable agreed.

4. Review of action items from the previous meeting.

The meeting reviewed the List of Action items from RSAHC 4 (RSAHC 4_Actions) and concluded the following:

- 1) A representative for IHR was nominated. The Chairman announced that Oman would provide a brief presentation on IHR under Agenda Item 17.
- 2) The Chairman indicated that there were occasional communication difficulties between RSAHC members because of changing positions/organizations responsible for hydrography within member states or contact details were changed without informing the Chairman and the IHB. The Chairman urged participants to confirm and update their contact details regularly.

3) IR of Iran and France suggested providing contact details annually in IHO Year Book, Qatar suggested creating an electronic database.

4) IR of Iran, the [Region I] ICCWG Coordinator, Oman and Saudi Arabia discussed INT chart issues at the end of the first day of the meeting. The outcome of this meeting is provided in the INT coordinator report.

5) Member states were urged to ensure timely passage of MSI to NAVAREA IX Coordinator by e-mail whenever possible.

6) The Chairman mentioned that there were some volunteers for the RSAHCICCWG but due to the lack of communication this WG was inactive. IR of Iran urged member states to establish better communications with them. The Chairman urged member states to provide their up to date contact details by the end of the meeting.

5. Review of Statutes of the Commission.

The Chairman asked all participants if there were any suggested amendments or comments to the statutes but none were suggested. IR of Iran questioned whether ROPME could become a full member because of its importance to the region; it was highlighted that the RSAHC statutes only allow for IHO full member states with a coastline in the geographical area to be full members. The Chairman stated that an invitation would be extended to ROPME/Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) as an observer for future meetings.

Saudi Arabia asked on the status of the signing the RSAHC statutes; the Chairman acknowledged that no Member State had yet signed the statutes. IHB provided the background to this situation. IR of Iran, Pakistan and UAE supported the signing of the statutes as an entry into force provision of the Statutes, Qatar counselled for caution as not all delegations present had the authority to sign and the process could be difficult to complete within a reasonable time.

The Chairman agreed there was sufficient support to require all Member States and Associate Members to sign the statutes but questioned what would be the position of individual states if there were significant delays in signing. It was initially agreed that statutes would be formally circulated to all Member States and Associate Members for signing by appropriate authorities. However after extensive discussions on this issue, it was agreed that IHB would assist in RSAHC Statutes Signatory status before any action by 1 May 2013.

6. Report by IHB.

IHB Assistant Director, Mr. David Wyatt, presented the IHB Report (RSAHC 5-6). He outlined the new structure and background, and the need for Member States to vote on the new convention and pending applications for membership.

Member States were urged and encouraged to liaise with the regional INT Chart and ENC Coordinator to ensure details were up to date and complete. Member States were requested to reply to IHO CL51/2012 which requires IHO Member States to provide

their ENC's to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. Additionally Member States were requested to check their C-55 and IHO Yearbook entries to ensure they were up to date and that revisions were submitted at least annually.

Details of 2013 World Hydrographic Day theme were provided and the dates of the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference were confirmed as 6 to 10 October 2014. Member States were encouraged to consider submitting articles to the International Hydrographic Review to highlight the numerous and varied activities taking place in the region.

Member States were encouraged to support the IHO-IOC GEBCO Shallow Water Bathymetry initiative to extend the coverage inside the 200 meter contour. The new IHO-IOC GEBCO Cookbook was highlighted and its availability as a valuable teaching and educational resource.

Brief details of the IHO Capacity Building Programme were provided along with anticipated reduced funding available for the next few years programmes. Member States were encouraged to engage with industry, which is willing and keen to become involved in regional Capacity Building activities and initiatives.

7. National Reports.

France, IR of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UK presented their National Reports. It was noted Bahrain had also submitted a National Report. Kuwait did not attend the meeting or submitted a report. The following highlights were noted:

- 1) Bahrain's report was displayed on the screen for a short time while scrolling through the whole report.
- 2) France provided a video on SHOM activities indicating developments in the Indian Ocean.
- 3) IR of Iran welcomed France as a new Associate Member. It highlighted the main contents of its report, particularly assets, charts and nautical publications it generated. It expressed their wish to establish a NAV Sub-AREA in the Caspian Sea. IR of Iran raised the difficulties in obtaining entry visas for the last IHC which was held in Monaco. IHB provided update on work in progress with government of Monaco to help resolve such issues in the future. IR-Iran reported that they had become a member of ENC RENEK by signing an official agreement with Norwegian PRIMAR.
- 5) Oman briefed on recent new hydrographic directorate organization structure within the Royal Navy of Oman. Also updates on paper charts and ENC production were provided.
- 6) Pakistan highlighted current ENC and paper chart production process, giving details of published INT charts, briefed on NAVAREA IX Coordinator activities and requested continued efforts to improve communication and provision of MSI. Training capacity available to MS was also highlighted.

7) Qatar highlighted new surveys undertaken, assets available and staff employed. Briefed on additional activities in which it was involved, including maritime boundaries and maritime zones delimitation.

8) Saudi Arabia briefed on activities of the General Commission for Survey, including surveys undertaken and charts produced, also details were provided on the full national chart scheme recently developed. It outlined training activities undertaken and developed. It provided highlights on current projects underway and associated support services provided.

9) UK highlighted activities in charts/ENC production and CB courses provided. It showed UK support to the region in training activities.

8. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the RSAHC (IHO Publication C-55).

France suggested using satellite bathymetry as a vital tool, although it does not meet IHO S-44 standards but it provides considerable benefits.

Saudi Arabia suggested a simplified form of C-55 could be considered. IHB is looking for a better format for C-55 and supported UK graphical presentation of data which has been developed.

UK provided a background brief on C-55 and then on potential future developments in support of an IRCC objective to improve the current C-55. A graphic showing CATZOCs extracted from GB ENCs in the RSAHC region clearly illustrated where survey effort could be well focused.

Member states were encouraged to update IHB on the status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting on the IHO website, IHO publication C-55 and IHO Year Book at least annually.

9. Report by INT Chart Coordinator – Progress on the implementation of the RSA INT Chart Scheme and other issue.

IR of Iran, the [Region I] ICCWG Coordinator for Region I, provided a comprehensive report on activities since RSAHC 4 (RSAHC 5-9).

UK clarified a number of points regarding International (INT) charts and advised against the use of pre-determined scales for chart schemes. IR of Iran explained the background to the point and the considerations. Oman raised the issues of overlaps and advised they should be addressed in accordance with S-11. Saudi Arabia explained the background to their scheme and scales used. It emphasized the agreed process for harmonization between states through the [Region I] ICCWG.

10. WEND WG issues (UK) and Report by ENC Regional Coordinator (IR of Iran)

UK gave a brief on WENDWG and the WEND principles, details of the project for revision of the WEND guidelines were given (RSAHC 5-10.1).

IR of Iran asked about ENC gap and overlap issues. UK confirmed WG was tasked to identify gaps and overlaps which were possibly overlooked and encouraged RHC MS to resolve these issues without the authority to enforce resolution. IHB briefed on outcomes of recent WENDWG in London and work to take project forward.

Saudi Arabia suggested any resolution should be through bilateral discussions. It also asked for more details on RENC. UK gave further details including creation of WWRENC to replace present RENCs indicating that there was still considerable work to be done. Saudi Arabia encouraged dialogues for harmonization between RENCs.

IR of Iran, the [Region I] ICCWG, provided a report on ENC activities for the region and encouraged the Member States to join RENCs. (RSAHC 5-10.2).

UK requested the IHB to articulate the vision for future progress where IHB briefed on the IHO position.

France explained the obligation on coastal states, which do not produce their own charts, to provide updates and MSI data to their primary charting authority. France indicated that the INT Chart and ENC WG are usually under a combined name.

The Chairman explained that this WG (RSAHCICCWG) was established during the 4th meeting which was held in Muscat in March 2011. The details of the WG and terms of reference are published in the RSAHC page. The Chairman urged again MS to provide participants for the WG.

11. Presentations from Industry

Presentations were given by CARIS, Fugro, IIC Technologies, IXBLUE, IC-ENC, Kongsberg Maritime, Oceanwise, Primar, and Unique Systems. The participation of the industry was valuable and contributed to the meeting with highlights including new technologies, capacity building and standards.

The industry representatives made the following presentations:

- a. CARIS: “New possibilities” by Peter Schwarzberg.
- b. Fugro: “Integration of MBES and ALB for ENC Charting Surveys and Capacity Building Issues” by Don Ventura and Paul Seaton.
- c. IIC: “New Paths, New Approaches” by Rajesh Alla.
- d. IXBLUE: “Technology and Products” by Joachim De Jenlis.
- e. IC-ENC: “S-100 Update and Overview” by James Harper.
- f. IC-ENC and PRIMAR joint presentation: “The Benefits of RENCs” by James Harper (IC-ENC) and Hans Chr. Lauritzen PRIMAR.
- g. Kongsberg Maritime: “Building Capability for Hydrographic Products and Industry Contribution to Capacity Building” by Richard ‘Bungy’ Williams.
- h. Oceanwise: “Maximizing the value of HO Data” by John Pepper.
- i. Unique Systems: “Regional Hydrographic Research, Studies & Projects” by Sharad Kumar.

12. New logo for the RSAHC

The Chairman stated that he noticed the RSAHC uses the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Logo. He suggested there was a need to create a new logo for the RSAHC. This was supported by MS. Samples of suggested new logos created by Oman and suggestions by UK were offered on screen for consideration. IR of Iran suggested inputs or suggestions from others. UAE suggested having a group responsible to create the new logo. After discussions, it was agreed UAE to coordinate, receive suggestions and distribute suggested logos to MS by the 15th of May 2013 for consideration. The new logo is to be chosen and confirmed during the next RSAHC meeting.

13. Capacity Building (CB) matters.

IALA provided a presentation on the IALA World-Wide Academy by the Programme Manager, Stephen Bennett. The presentation provided background of IALA, the Academy CB and its relations with IMO, IHO, WMO, IOC and FIG.

RSAHC CB Coordinator followed IALA with a presentation providing background to CB and where information is available on the IHO website. He then explained the three phases of CB and what they require.

The CB Coordinator explained that the five year CB plan (2013-2017) was submitted to the CBSC through the RSAHC Chairman on 1 April 2012. A successful first ever workshop for the RSAHC on the Law of the Sea was conducted in Muscat, Oman, in March 2012.

Saudi Arabia highlighted the responsibility of MSs to ensure the CB trainees should be employed in the related fields for which they were trained.

Port and Shallow Water Survey course to be run by Pakistan in 2013 required a suitable venue; IR of Iran, Qatar and UAE volunteered to host the course, subject to further approval.

The CB Coordinator created a grid of CB workshops and training courses and asked the members to identify their preferences for 2014. The aggregated preferences highlighted a number of common themes. 3 projects were identified as priority for 2014, these are:

- a) Priority 1: MSI (Training on establishment of MSI structure and basic MSI procedures).
- b) Priority 2: Tidal and Water Levels Workshop.
- c) Priority 3: Development of a Regional Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Workshop.

IHB briefed on CBSC activities, particularly the progress achieved in various projects and planned events. Clarification was given on the strategy phases of development and the process of moving through the capability levels. IHB highlighted that there is a future plan to raise the CB funds and increase the resource to have more CB activities.

Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services (AMNAS) suggested CB training and requirements should be aligned and identified based on the most recent Technical Visits.

Finally, the Chairman proposed that Jeff Bryant to continue as the Regional CB Coordinator. This was supported by MSs and he was therefore re-elected as the RSAHC CB Coordinator.

14. RSAHC Working Groups.

There is only one WG within the commission which is RSAHCICCWG. IR of Iran suggested having more WGs for this commission. The Chairman explained that if there were any requirements, WGs would be established to enhance or solve an issue.

15. Promulgation of radio navigation warnings within NAVAREA IX, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS.

Pakistan provided a comprehensive brief on MSI activities within NAVAREA IX as the NAVAREA Coordinator (see RSAHC 5-15).

IR of Iran requested Pakistan to disseminate the IHO-WWNWS questionnaire to all shipping to evaluate performance of the NAV Area Coordinator in order to improve MSI. IHB briefed on new WWNWS survey which was to commence on the 1st April. IR of Iran asked whether the questionnaire could be available for download. IHB confirmed the questionnaire would be available for NAVAREA IX Coordinator to download and distribute. (Post meeting note: WWNWS Survey questionnaire is available for download from the IHO-WWNWS webpage and a link to the on-line questionnaire is on the IHO website front page.)

IHB invited all MS to support the NAVAREA IX Coordinator with timely provision of MSI in digital format if possible. Pakistan stated that there are difficulties in communications with some member states. Pakistan further requested the IHB to support visits to some states in the region to assist with MSI capabilities. IHB confirmed efforts had already been made to contact a number of states but obtaining the appropriate contact details was often difficult. UKHO offered to supply its regional contact details to the NAVAREA IX Coordinator.

16. Relevant International Organizations' Report- highlights any event and decisions which impact on RSAHC.

IHB briefed on IMO reorganization activities and impacts on IHO activities. France briefed on EU activities in hydrographic programmes and late transfers and imports of EU regulations.

IALA briefed on IMO CB cooperation and e-Navigation project involvement. IHB briefed on IHO-IOC programmes and the current funding issues restricting IOC engagement in CB activities. IHO and IALA cooperation in CB training activities was highlighted.

17. RSAHC representative to the IHR Editorial Board

Oman provided a presentation on the International Hydrographic Review, giving a brief history of the publication and its development. The Chairman encouraged Member States and participants to submit articles on relevant topics which might include activities of recent developments in the region, IHB reiterated these comments. Mr. Keith Brown at ONHO is the RSAHC representative to the IHR Editorial Board (nhooman@omantel.net.om)

18. RSAHC provision of shallow bathymetry to IHO-IOC GEBCO Database (IHO standing agenda item).

GEBCO gave a brief on the IHO-IOC GEBCO programme and the bathymetric guide. The aim of GEBCO is to provide the most authoritative, publicly-available bathymetric datasets for the world oceans.

GEBCO evaluates and authorizes undersea feature names for use on its products, which are published in a gazetteer. The importance of inclusion of shallow water data and improving the quality of ocean mapping products was illustrated.

IHO-IOC GEBCO CB training programme was explained and GEBCO regional mapping programme were highlighted. All were encouraged to provide data in an appropriate format for inclusion in the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB).

IHB briefed on future funding issues and confirmation of continued NIPPON Foundation in support of the GEBCO programme.

19. Developments of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region (IHO standing agenda item). (UK and IHB)

UK provided a comprehensive presentation on developments of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI). Oceanwise followed up with a further MSDI presentation, where data use and management were emphasized. A case study was given to illustrate the raised issues.

20. Engagement and representation of RSAHC members with IHB, IHO, IRCC, HSSC and IHO WGs and committees.

Chairman urged all MS to engage and participate in IHO WGs. Saudi Arabia requested clarification on details of HSSC meetings. IHB highlighted all the details of the HSSC meetings are available on the website. France clarified involvements and where information could be found. MS were encouraged to surf the IHO website; a great deal of information is available to keep MS up to date on developments.

21. Procedures in response to Marine Disasters.

Oman provided a brief presentation on Oman's infrastructure for the National Multi Hazard Early Warning System. (See RSAHC 5-29.2). Oman also went quickly through a document which was provided by IOC on the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS). It covered amongst other things the IOTWS Medium Term Strategy and described the basic directions towards continuously improving the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System to meet stakeholder requirements during the

period 2011-2015. The document is provided in the website (RSAHC 5-21.1).

More discussions took place on tsunami and other disaster warning systems infrastructures in place in the region. NOAA website was highlighted with details of the Pacific warning network.

22. RSAHC inputs to IRCC5.

Chairman briefed on the report process to IRCC.

23. Any other business.

The Chairman stated that the 20th Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea Business Meeting is planned to be held in Oman during the last week of October 2013. The meeting will be followed by one or two day seminar or workshop on related subjects of the Law of the Sea. It is hoped RSAHC members will have significant participation in the seminar/workshop. Details will be distributed once confirmed.

The Chairman suggested IALA and AMNAS to be included as formal observers to RSAHC, which was supported by all. He noted MENAS was already listed as an official observer.

Oceanwise gave a presentation on the Ad-hoc Experts Study Group on Satellite Derived Bathymetry and developments of the group in association with the IHO.

Questions were raised whether there was a need for updating S-44 to reflect new technologies and developments since the publication of the latest edition (5th) in February 2008.

IR of Iran suggested holding an extra meeting in 2014 for RSAHC which should take place before EIHC5. Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and UK supported the idea. It was agreed to hold the next RSAHC meeting in 2014 in UAE but maintain the normal practice of holding the meetings once every two years thereafter.

24. Election of the next Chairman and vice-Chairman.

UAE volunteered to be the new Chairman for the RSAHC and was dually elected. IR of Iran was elected to be the Vice Chairman.

25. Date and venue of next meeting.

The Chairman suggested February or March 2014 would be appropriate for the next meeting which was agreed by all. UAE volunteered to host the meeting and will announce the date accordingly.

26. Approval of List of Actions.

The list of Actions arising from RSAHC 5 were reviewed and adopted and are attached at Annex B.

27. Closing remarks by the Chairman.

The Chairman extended his thanks to Member States, Associate Members, commercial companies, organizations and all present for their inputs attendance and contributing to the meeting. He thanked especially Saudi Arabia for organizing such a successful meeting. He also thanked IHB for their guidance and help during the meeting. He particularly thanked Ms Ahlam Al Kharusi, the RSAHC Secretary, for her efforts before and during RSAHC 5. Finally, he congratulated UAE on being the next Chairman and wished them success. At the end he wished all a safe return to their respective countries.

Annexes:

- A. Full list of attendees (RSAHC5-Participants).
- B. Action List (RSAHC5-Actions).
- C. Full list of RSAHC5 documents.

Enclosure:

- 1. Opening address by His Excellency Morayyea Hassan Al Shahrani, president of the General Commission for Survey.

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AR RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
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Annex A to RSAHC 5 Final Report

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ACTION LIST

NO	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1	Oman, Saudi Arabia and all other Member States to provide INT Chart updates to the [Region I] ICCWG Coordinator	Oman, Saudi Arabia and all	15 March 2013
2	[Region I] ICCWG Coordinator to provide the updated Region I catalogue to IHB after updates received from member states	IR of Iran	15 April 2013
3	[Region I] ICCWG Coordinator to provide a list of the WG names.	IR of Iran	20 March 2013
4	IHB is invited to assist RSAHC members to sign the Statutes.	IHB	1 May 2013
5	To confirm the process for suspended members to re-admittance in the RSAHC.	All	On going
6	To inform IHB of any changes to data and information published on the IHO website, C-55 and IHO Year Book.	All	On going
7	To keep update of the ENC coverage and inform [Region I] ICCWG Coordinator	All	On going
8	To consider provision of shallow water bathymetric data to IHO-IOC GEBCO programme through the IHO DCDB.	All	On going
9	To contribute with articles and notes for International Hydrographic Review (IHR).	All	On going
10	To regularly check IHO website for notification of events and update information.	All	On going
11	To develop Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region and the engagement in the IHO MSDI WG.	All	On going
12	To ensure personnel nominated for CB courses and workshops are correctly employed on completion.	All	On going

NO	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
13	To find a venue for hosting the Port and Shallow Water CB course in 2013 (the trainers will be provided by the PK Navy).	IR of Iran, Qatar, UAE	15 April 2013
14	Correct training inputs to be submitted by RSAHC CB coordinator.	CB Coordinator	31 March 2013
15	A technical visit to NAVAREA IX countries to promote MSI	Pakistan/ IHB	31 May 2013
16	Member states to ensure prompt promulgation of radio navigation warnings within NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS.	All	On going
17	To submit proposals for the new RSAHC Logo to UAE.	All	15 April 2013
18	To distribute new logo for RSAHC.	UAE	15 May 2013
19	To confirm the new logo.	All	Next RSAHC meeting
20	Draft meeting report on RSAHC.	Chairman	3 April 2013
21	Comments on the draft of RSAHC report.	All	30 April 2013
22	UAE to Confirm dates of the next RSAHC meeting in Feb/March 2014.	UAE	15 April 2013
23	IHB is to consider a high level visit to UAE.	IHB and RSAHC CB Coordinator	1 October 2013
24	RSAHC Inputs to CBSC.	Chairman	1 April 2013
25	RSAHC Inputs to IRCC.	Chairman	1 April 2013

**5th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)
AL RIYADH- KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, 4-6 March 2013**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document No	Document Title
RSAHC 4_Report	Final Report of RSAHC 4 meeting
RSAHC 4_Actions	List of Actions from RSAHC 4
RSAHC CL 02-2012	RSAHC 5 Meeting Notification
RSAHC CL 03-2012	RSAHC 5 Logistic Information
RSAHC CL 03-2012 Annex C	RSAHC 5 Registration Form (Word format)
RSAHC 5 - Agenda	RSAHC 5 Draft Agenda
RSAHC 5 - Time Table	RSAHC 5 Time Table of Agenda
RSAHC 5-6	IHB Report
RSAHC 5-6.1	Brief on Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO
RSAHC 5-7.1	Bahrain National Report
RSAHC 5-7.2	France National Report
RSAHC 5-7.3	IR of Iran National Report
RSAHC 5-7.5	Oman National Report
RSAHC 5-7.6	Pakistan National Report
RSAHC 5-7.7	Qatar National Report
RSAHC 5-7.10	UK National Report
RSAHC 5-9	INT Chart Coordinator Report
RSAHC 5-10.1	Presentation on WENDWG
RSAHC 5-10.2	ENC Coordinator Report
RSAHC 5-10.3	Joint Primar - IC-ENC Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.1	Fugro Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.2	Kongsberg Maritime Presentation

Document No	Document Title
RSAHC 5-11.3	Caris Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.4	IX Blue Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.5	Unique Systems Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.6	IIC Technologies Presentation
RSAHC 5-11.7	IC-ENC S-100 Presentation
RSAHC 5-13.1	IALA Presentation
RSAHC 5-13.2	IHB CB Presentation
RSAHC 5-13.3	CBWP-2012
RSAHC 5-13.4	CBWP-2013
RSAHC 5-13.5	CB 2013 Projects yet to be funded
RSAHC 5-13.6	CB Review
RSAHC 5-13.7	CB Coordinator Presentation
RSAHC 5-13.8	CB Plan 2013-2017
RSAHC 5-13.9	CB Requests 2011
RSAHC 5-13.10	CB Requests 2013
RSAHC 5-15	NAVAREA IX Report
RSAHC 5-17	IHR Presentation
RSAHC 5-18	GEBCO Presentation
RSAHC 5-19.1	UK MSDI Presentation
RSAHC 5-19.2	Oceanwise Presentation
RSAHC 5-21.1	IOC ICG-IOTWS-VIII Report
RSAHC 5-21.2	DGMAN Report
RSAHC 5	List of Participants

DRAFT OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, GCS AT THE 5TH ROPME SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC) AT RIYADH ON 04TH MARCH 2013

AS SALAMU ALAIKUM. GOOD MORNING EVERYBODY.

DEAR COMMANDER THANI AL MAHROUKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE RSAHC FROM OMAN , MR VLADAN JANKOVIC , VICE CHAIRMAN FROM QATAR , ADMIRAL MUSATFA IPTES, DIRECTOR FROM IHB, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES FROM MEMBER STATES , HYDROGRAPHIC INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION FOR SURVEY (GCS), IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF RIYADH, TO ATTEND THE 5TH MEETING OF THE "RSAHC". WE ARE INDEED PRIVILEGED TO HOST THIS REGIONAL MEETING AND WISH THE PROCEEDINGS WELL.

THE GCS IS RELATIVELY A NEW AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATION, ESTABLISHED TO TAKE CARE OF ALL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION , BOTH LAND AND SEA , BESIDES BEING THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CENTRE (GIC) FOR ALL CIVIL APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE MANY IMPORTANT STAKE HOLDERS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM, WITH WHOM WE ARE POSITIVELY INTERACTING, TO ENSURE THAT OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES MEET THE USER REQUIREMENTS . ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AT GCS, IS THE POSITIVE NOTE ON WHICH HYDROGRAPHY DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN OFF TO MEET USER NEEDS.

DURING THE LAST 3 YEARS, THE GCS HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF ON SOUND PROFESSIONAL LINES BY (A) ESTABLISHING LONG AND SHORT TERM PLANS , ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MUCH NEEDED VIABLE CHARTING SCHEME (B) IMPLEMENTING 3 MAJOR 100% COVERAGE COASTAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY PROJECTS IN RED SEA USING LIDAR AND MULTI BEAM

EQUIPMENT , WITH MORE PROJECTS IN 2013,ALL UNDER ACTIVE INDUSTRY COOPERATION (C) ESTABLISHING THE HYDROGRAPHIC TRAINING CENTRE AT JEDDAH WITH FULL INFRASTRUCTURE (D) GETTING RECOGNITION FROM THE IHO/FIG/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY “B” HYDROGRAPHY AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY COURSES (E) BECOMING THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION SINCE JANUARY 2012 AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ALL THE IHO WORK PROGRAMMES AND (F) MANY OTHER HYDROGRAPHY ORIENTED PROJECTS, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE KSA NATIONAL REPORT BY THE SAUDI DELEGATION.

HYDROGRAPHY TODAY IS A VERY HIGH TECHNOLOGY FIELD, IN TERMS OF EQUIPMENT/SYSTEMS, COLLECTION, PROCESSING OF VAST DATA AND ENSURING QUALITY AS PER IHO STANDARDS. LIKEWISE, NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY INVOLVES HIGH END COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARES TO PRODUCE ELECTRONIC NAUTICAL CHARTS (ENCs) AND PAPER NAUTICAL CHARTS (PNCs), BESIDES GCS PLANS TO PRODUCE BASE NAUTICAL CHARTS (BNCs) FOR SPECIAL APPLICATIONS ON A SCALE OF 1:25000 FOR THE ENTIRE COAST. GCS PLANS TO PRODUCE MANY VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WITH OVERLAYS FOR DIFFERENT AGENCIES, APART FROM MEETING THE STATUTORY NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE IMO AND IHO REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME . THE VERY PROFESSIONAL AND GUIDING ROLE PLAYED BY THE IHO HAS HELPED MANY NATIONS TO EVOLVE THEIR HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES, INCLUDING THE GCS. WE EARNESTLY HOPE A “WORLDWIDE ELECTRONIC NAUTICAL CHARTS COORDINATING CENTRE (WENC) WILL FRUCTIFY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE IHO AT THE NEXT EARLIEST.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN HYDROGRAPHY IS A MAJOR THRUST AREA WITH (A) PROCUREMENT AND TRAINING IN MODERN SURVEY EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS (B) TRAINING OF SAUDIS UNDER EXPERTS

GUIDANCE (C) MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF GCS STAFF AT IHO MEETINGS AND HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCES AND (D) ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY UNITS WITH COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG THE COAST FOR FIELD SURVEYS IN A PHASED MANNER. GCS WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXTEND SOME TAILORED COURSES AT JEDDAH TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE MEMBER STATES OF THE RSAHC UNDER THE IHO/RSAHC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES FROM 2014. WE ARE KEEN THAT OUR HYDROGRAPHIC TRAINING CENTRE AT JEDDAH WILL SOON BECOME A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR HYDROGRAPHY IN THIS REGION AND PROMOTE GREATER CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE LITTORAL STATES HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICES

WITH VAST DATA COMING FROM THE 3D HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS, GCS IS ACTIVELY PURSUING A CREDIBLE “HYDROGRAPHIC DATA MANAGEMENT” PROGRAM, WHICH WILL TAKE CARE OF THE ENC/PNC/BASE CHARTS DATA BASES, WITH DUE DISSEMINATION THROUGH THE GIC.

CONSIDERING THE EXCELLENT PROFESSIONAL APPROACH BY THE REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS UNDER THE IHO, GCS IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF BOTH THE “NIOHC” AND THE “RSAHC”, REPRESENTING EASTERN AND WESTERN SEA COASTS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. WE GIVE OUR COMMITMENT TO THESE REGIONAL HYDROGRAPIC COMMISSIONS AND THE IHO FOR GLOBAL COVERAGE OF CHARTS IN SAUDI MARINE AREAS, INCLUDING THE “INT” SERIES CHARTS IN THE REGION. GCS IS COMMITTED TO HYDROGRAPHIC COOPERATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

UNDER FAST PACED TECHNOLOGY CHANGES, IT IS VERY NECESSARY FOR MEMBER STATES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH HYDROGRAPHIC INDUSTRY, TO ENSURE QUALITY AND UPDATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE MANY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WHO HAVE COME TO THIS MEETING TO

SHOWCASE THEIR LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN THE FILELDS OF HYDROGRAPHY AND MARINE CARTOGRAPHY.

SAUDI ARABIA IS SEEKING TO BE A LEADING HYDROGRAPHIC NATION IN THIS REGION, WE SEEK THE CONTINUED COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE IHO, OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES, THE INDUSTRY AND OUR STAKEHOLDERS.

I, ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO RIYADH TO PARTICIPATE AT THE 5TH MEETING OF THE RSAHC AND WISH THE PARTICIPANTS VERY PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL DELIBERATIONS. WE URGE YOU TO ALSO ENJOY THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE KINGDOM DURING YOUR STAY.