

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**NATIONAL REPORT**

**ROPME MEETING**

**TAHRAN – IRAN**

**2 – 3 MAY 2006**

# **“National Report”**

## **Introduction**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has an extensive coastline of approximately 1473 km in the Gulf and has 3 major ports. There are more than 152 islands in the in the Gulf. The management and support of these hydrographic features and facilities is conducted through the joint effort of a number of government organizations, namely:

- The Ministry of Defense and Aviation as represented by the General Directorate of Military Survey ( GDMS).
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (oil company).
- The Saudi Seaports Authority.
- The Ministry of Transport.
- King Abdul Aziz University (College of Marine Sciences).
- King Fahd University ( Research Institutes )
- The Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA).
- The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD).

## **IHO Membership:**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's will be member of Organization very soon.

## **Aramco's Charting and Hydrographic Survey Activities:**

Aramco's hydrographic surveys were mainly related to off-shore oil reserves in its area of concession. The Company's Hydrographic Survey Section's operations have therefore covered approximately 9,000 sq. km in the Gulf.

## **Training in the Field of Hydrographic Survey:**

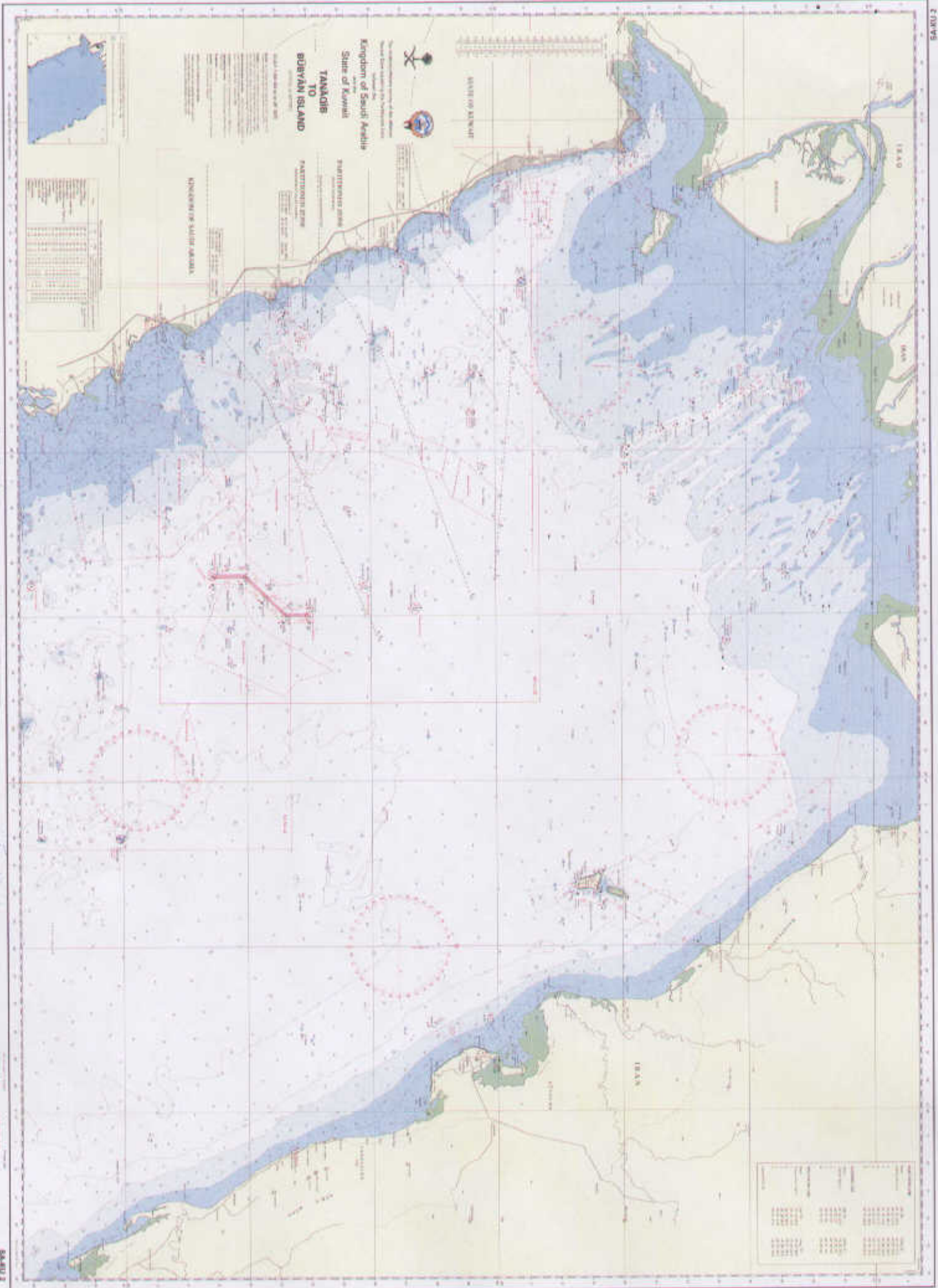
Facilities for training and education in hydrographic surveying are lacking in the Kingdom. Surveying courses offered at universities and technical institutes are dedicated to land surveying and topographic mapping. Government Organizations, particularly Aramco, have their own training facilities. These facilities, however, are not enough to satisfy all needs on the national level. The Faculty of Marine Sciences at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah is specialized in marine sciences (geophysical, biological, etc.). Recently, they have established a maritime department.

**Hydrographic Surveys at the Kingdom's Ports and International cooperation:**

The Saudi Seaports Authority would carry out hydrographic surveys as needed. It has a regular periodic program for surveying the Kingdom's seaports and the routes leading to them to ensure marine safety.

HSD has an on-going program of cooperation with the United Kingdom's Hydrographic Office (UKHO) who are supplying us with a lot of useful information. We expect that many positive results of this cooperation will materialize in the near future particularly in relation to the improvement of marine safety in the Arabian Gulf. In this connection, a joint survey is being conducted near Al-Jubail Seaport with the aim of producing digital and paper-printed charts for the area. 8 HSD specialists will be involved in the hydrographic survey work and map production will be undertaken by GDMS and UKHO.





DEPTH IN METRES

SAUDI 2

## **NAV WARNING**

Saudi Arabia belongs to NAVAREA IX at which it is represented by the Saudi Seaports Authority, the national agency responsible for providing navigational warnings.

## **The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GDMSS):**

A terminal of this technically advanced international system is available at the Command and Control Center of the Kingdom's Coast Guards. Two more terminals are being installed in (Jeddah) and the Eastern Province.

The Coast Guards are working hard and coordinating efforts with all other agencies of concern in order to activate the GDMSS. Great attention is attached to the system which is viewed as an important aid to the Kingdom's efforts for carrying its obligation under the Search and Rescue Convention.

## **Regional Organizations:**

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is actively involved in the work of regional organizations; namely the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), with its headquarters in Kuwait City, Through The Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA).

## **Future Work:**

1. Currently, we are involved in an on-going joint effort for the survey of Aljubail seaport approaches with UKHO.
2. We look forward to doing more hydrographic surveying in cooperation with friendly countries.
3. Next year we are ready to start along plan of hydrographic and oceanographic surveys.