

**2<sup>nd</sup> ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)**

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 2-3 May 2006

**STATUTES OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF THE  
ROPME SEA AREA  
(RSAHC)****ARTICLE 1: THE COMMISSION**

- a) The Regional Hydrographic Commission for the ROPME Sea Area is constituted in conformity with Administrative Resolution T1.3 of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), attached as Annex A, and shall be governed according to these Statutes.
- b) The geographic Region covered by the Commission shall be the ROPME Sea Area, illustrated at Annex B, hereafter referred as "the Region".

**ARTICLE 2: MEMBERS**

- a) Full Members of the Commission shall be IHO Member States within the Region who are signatories of these Statutes.
- b) Associate Membership is open to any non-IHO Member State within the Region who is a signatory of these Statutes. Other Members of the IHO who contribute to the safety of navigation through their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information in the Region and are signatories to these statutes may be accepted as Associate Members. Associate Members have the same rights and obligations as the Full Members of the Commission except the right to vote or to be elected Chairman.
- c) Other IHO Member States who are not signatories to these statutes but who contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information in the Region, or organizations active in the above field in the region maybe invited to participate as Observers. Observers can participate in the discussions and in the working groups set up by the Commission but shall not have voting rights.

**ARTICLE 3: AIMS**

- a) The Commission, which is an integral part of the IHO and which promotes the aims of the Organization at the regional level, shall have an advisory, scientific and technological character. It shall not exert any authority over the hydrographic services or institutions responsible for hydrography and navigation of the Member countries and its activities shall not extend to matters concerning political issues.
- b) Particular aims of the Commission are:
- 1) To promote safety of navigation through technical co-operation and training in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information.
  - 2) To examine in its area of interest, matters with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and of any other bodies set up by the IHO.
  - 3) To stimulate all countries of the Region to expand their hydrographic activities and to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHB and other organisations in order to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities.
  - 4) To facilitate the exchange of information related to surveys, research and/or scientific and technical development to assist in planning and organizing the hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the aims, but without interference in national responsibilities.
  - 5) To co-ordinate and implement the INT Chart Scheme for the Region and to monitor its suitability.
  - 6) To carry out studies and projects through working groups of the Commission or as a working group of the IHO when deemed necessary.
  - 7) To exchange information about provision of services for GIS applications of hydrographic data.

#### **ARTICLE 4: ORDINARY MEETINGS**

- a) The Commission shall hold an ordinary meeting in a country of the Region at least twice between two successive ordinary sessions of the International Hydrographic Conference (IHC).
- b) The Members shall be represented at the meetings by the heads of the Hydrographic Authorities or their nominees or, where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation.
- c) The presence of at least one-half (½) of the Full Members of the Commission shall constitute the necessary quorum to hold the meeting.
- d) An invitation to attend the meeting shall always be sent to the Directing Committee of the IHB.
- e) The Chairman shall invite those countries of the Region that are not Members of the Commission and the Co-ordinators of adjacent INT-Chart Regions to send representatives to attend the Commission meetings as observers. Any Members may propose to the Chairman the invitation of technical experts as observers.
- f) The number of participants shall not exceed more than 3 per country pending availability of host country's facilities.

#### **ARTICLE 5: CHAIRMAN**

- a) The meetings of the Commission shall be presided over by its Chairman. The Chairman shall be from a Full Member State of the Commission, elected on a rotational basis. Therefore, those Full Members desirous of chairing the next meeting shall put forward their candidature during an ordinary meeting. Priority shall be given to a country which has not yet chaired a meeting, or to the one which had not done so for the longest time. In cases of equal priority, a secret ballot shall be held with the decision being taken by a simple majority of Full Members present. The Chairman shall take office six months before the date of the meeting.
- b) In the interval between meetings, the Chairman shall assume the Secretariat of the Commission and shall see that all matters arising are addressed by correspondence. The Chairman shall also prepare a complete report on the activities performed by the Commission during his term and shall submit it as the first item of the Agenda for the next meeting.
- c) The Chairman will report the activities and future plans of the Commission to the relevant sessions of the IHC and make contributions to the IHO Annual Report. Between IHC sessions, reports of studies or other activities which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States should be reported by the Chairman to the IHB for general dissemination.
- d) In case the Chairman of the Commission is replaced from office at the relevant Service, the successor shall become the new Chairman.

#### **ARTICLE 6: DATE AND VENUE OF MEETINGS**

- a) Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be agreed at each meeting.
- b) The Chairman elect of the Commission shall make arrangements for hosting the next meeting in a country in the Region.
- c) The host country will assist with the arrangement of authorizations and visas, so as to facilitate attendance at the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 7: AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

- a) The proposals considered by the Members, to be included in the Agenda of a meeting, should be sent to the Chairman for the next meeting at least four (4) months in advance of the date agreed for the commencement of the meeting.
- b) The Chairman shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Members at least two (2) months before the meeting.
- c) The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each meeting.
- d) The Commission can modify the order of discussion of the different items of the Agenda during the meeting.
- e) Proposals of any Member which are not considered in the Agenda shall be submitted to the Chairman and, with the agreement of the Members, shall be incorporated in the Agenda for consideration.

#### **ARTICLE 8: RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS**

- a) The resolutions and decisions of the meeting shall be adopted by the simple majority of its Full Members present and voting. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands. In case of an equal

number of votes (tie), a second vote shall take place after listening to the comments of the representative of the IHB.

b) The Chairman shall prepare a written text of the decisions taken on each item of the Agenda each day and shall see to its distribution to all the participants for the next day.

c) Each Full Member has only one vote.

d) At the end of the meeting, the Chairman shall read the text of the resolutions and decisions taken.

#### **ARTICLE 9: CORRESPONDENCE**

a) The Chairman shall send, within two months after the closing of the meeting, one (1) copy of the Draft Report regarding the discussions and decisions taken during the meeting to each of the Full Members for approval, and for Associate Members and Observers for comment. The Full Members shall send back their approval or any amendments within two months after its receipt. After this period the report shall be deemed to have been approved and decision shall be put into effect. Any objection shall be resolved by correspondence. A signature page shall be circulated to obtain final approval.

b) A copy of the Final Report of the meeting shall be sent to the Full Members, Associate Members, Observers and the IHB.

#### **ARTICLE 10: EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

a) The Chairman may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Members of the Commission when their representatives are assembled for a session of the IHC, inviting others qualified to attend as observers.

b) In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence nor can be delayed for the next meeting, the Chairman, in agreement with at least 1/2 of the Full Members may convene an extraordinary meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 11: EXPENSES**

a) The Chairman and the host country shall be responsible for the organisation of the meeting. The host country shall bear the expenses except those in item (b) of this article described below.

b) Travelling, hotel and diem expenses of the delegates shall be defrayed by their respective organizations.

#### **ARTICLE 12: STATUTES**

a) The IHB shall be the custodian of these Statutes.

b) The amendment of the Statutes shall require the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members of the Commission.

c) If amendments to the present Statutes are agreed by those Full Members attending a meeting, but they do not receive the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members as required, the Chairman shall submit the proposal(s) by mail to all Full Members with information copies to Associate Members. Final approval shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph b of this Article. Amendments to the Statutes shall then appear in the Report of the Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 13: THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION**

a) The working language of the Commission shall be English.

**RESOLUTION T1.3 OF THE IHO****T1.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)**

1. It is resolved that the IHB shall encourage Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. As part of IHO, the RHC shall complement and not duplicate the work of the Bureau.

2. RHCs are intended to provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional coordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training and technical assistance. They (RHC) should enable, generally, the exchange of information and consultation between the hydrographic services concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other.

3. RHCs shall be properly constituted and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO. Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

4. RHC membership should include full members, associate members, and observers. Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who establish and sign the statutes of the RHC. Associate membership is available to coastal states of the region non IHO members but who are signatories of the statutes of the RHC. Other Member States of the IHO may participate as associate members (as signatories to the statutes of the RHC) or observers, if they contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, or nautical information in the region concerned. Organizations active in the region concerned, in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information, or aids to navigation may be invited to participate as observers.

5. The working languages used by the RHC shall be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the Bureau, one of the official languages of the IHO shall be used.

6. A representative of the Bureau shall be invited to attend meetings of the RHC.

7. The Chairs of RHCs will report their activities and future plans to the relevant sessions of the I.H. Conference. Between sessions, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all Member States, should be sent by the Chair of the RHC to the Bureau for general dissemination.

The ROPME Sea Area

