

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The Chairman's Opening Statements

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Participants And Dear Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you here for the 3rd RSAHC meeting in Monaco. My special appreciation for the IHB chairman Capt Hugo Gorziglia and his team for coordinating to make this event possible. I also deeply regret for the delay in hosting the meeting despite very sincere efforts and side by side special thanks to Oman HO for their full support for pursuing the request for holding 3rd RSAHC meeting back to back with OmanHydrosymposium 09. However, it could not be made possible. Thereafter, to accrue the full benefit of the 4th Extra Hydrographic Conference, this meeting was scheduled in Monaco.

Honorable Guests,

With this background, I would request to draw your attention to the Statue of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic commission which attaches great importance to the hydrographic activities for the safety of navigation and these safeties can only be assured through up-to-date Charts. Importance of navigation and ensuring the safety of shipping in the ROPME region is vital considering the strategic location for the export of oil and other commodities through tankers, cargo vessels and other merchant liners. It is therefore a challenging task that all shipping routes and approach channels are made safe heavens against Navigational hazards for vessels transiting through our region.

Distinguished delegates,

This Hydrographic Commission in the ROPME Sea Area was established on the basis of the technical resolution of (T1.3) of the IHO. Its first meeting was held in the year 2000 in Tehran, and through which the Statutes of the Commission was

developed by the Members. It was put forth for acceptance in the 2nd meeting at Tehran in year 2006. Today, the 3rd RSAHC meeting has created an opportunity for us to deliberate and discuss the Agenda to take effective measures in creating safe navigation through cooperation and exchange of information. The main item of the agenda is the ENC issues and I like to bring the attention of the HOs to assess the situation in identifying the actions that could improve the coverage, consistency, quality and other aspects of the capacity building which are needs of the region.

I would also urge the Members states to deliberate and resolve all issues pertaining to the promulgation of Navigational Warning under Gloabal Maritime and Distress Safety System, through INMARSAT(via satellite), Coastal Warning (NAVTEX) and NTMs with in all our capacity.

In order to maintain the quality of bathymetric data and cartography as per recognised international standards, RSAHC gives a lot of emphasis on the training of both surveying officers and survey recorders. For cooperation and to exploit the expertise, Pakistan has offered hydrographic courses to the member states and first Basic Hydrographic course for officers is starting today in Hydrographic School. It is appreciating that Pakistan HO has got accreditation of CAT B course through IHO/ IHB. The Cat B course will also be offered to the regional countries.

I would finally like to express my gratitude to all the honorable participants, and wish them success in achieving the objectives, and a pleasant stay in the wonderful city of Monaco. Let me to end by reiterating and special thanks to our host Mr Hugo Goz Gillia and his team deserve our gratitude and their efforts in managing this meeting should be reflected by the decision of this meeting.

Thank you

After a review of the statutes of the commission and national reports I would request all the members' states, guests and delegates to join together in reviewing and updating the status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical charting in the ROPME Sea Area Region under the light of IHO publication S-55. It is pertinent to mention about new techniques and technology evolving in the field of Hydrography and Oceanography today. In a recent Admiral regional highlighted and revealed the importance of hydrography that has been recognized by the UN General Assembly and with in IMO, hydrography has a high profile, with MSC circular in 2005 urging member states to address the deficiency revealed in IHO S-55.