

SULTANAT OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Oman National Hydrographic Office
Royal Navy of Oman
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280/9/9

See Distribution

11 Safar 1432AH
16 January 2011

Dear Commission Members, Associates and Observers,

After compliments,

4th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC) MEETING

Reference:

- A. 3rd RSAHC meeting, Monaco, 8-9 Jun 09.
- B. 3rd RSAHC Final Report dated 21 Apr 10.

1. At the 3rd RSAHC meeting held in Monaco on 8-9 June 2009, the Sultanate of Oman was voted as chair of the RSAHC, this was confirmed in the Final Report, Reference B. As detailed in the statutes, the RSAHC is required to meet a minimum of every 2 years.
2. After discussion with IHB, the Sultanate of Oman is please to announce the 4th RSAHC meeting will be held in Muscat on **21-22 March 2011**. It is believed this provides an ideal opportunity for all member states to attend a meeting organised and held in our region. This meeting is being jointly organised by the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO) and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
3. It is proposed to hold the meeting in the Muscat InterContinental Hotel where a special rate has been negotiated for all room bookings made before 21 February 2011. It is hoped delegates will use this hotel to avoid travel within Muscat, which can be challenging at times. There are numerous other hotels available within the Muscat capital area, see Annex B for details; however as it is still the tourist season so early booking is strongly recommended.
4. This meeting has been highlighted as a rare opportunity where all the major regional figures involved in the Hydrographic and Cartographic sectors will be gathered in one place. A number of leading companies have expressed a desire to be present, thus it is hoped to extend the period to include a half-day for a small number of companies to give presentations and engage with delegates. Confirmation and details will be given once known.

5. It is requested national delegations provide early details of names, Annex A, to enable individual letters of invitation to be sent for the processing of visas, where required.
6. In addition to member states, associates and formal observers, it is hoped delegates from the Republics of Iraq and Yemen and the Arabian Maritime Navigation Aids Service will attend as informal observers. It is considered these delegates have a valuable contribution to make towards the progress of hydrography within our region.
7. It is requested any agenda items are forwarded to the ONHO as early as possible and no later than 2 March 2011.
8. We look forward to seeing you here in Muscat in March 2011.

With respect and regards,

D J Wyatt
Cdr RNO
Hydrographer RNO and National Hydrographer Oman
For Minister of Transport and Communications

Distribution:

All RSAHC members
IHB
UKHO
NAVO
MENAS
ROPME

Annexes:

- A. Registration Form.
- B. Administrative Details.
- C. Provisional Agenda for 4th RSAHC meeting

ANNEX A TO
ONHO LETTER 280/9/9
DATED 16 JAN 11

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 4TH RSAHC MEETING IN MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN – 21 TO 22 MARCH 2011

1. This registration form must be returned to the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ohnoman@omantel.net.om), copied to Hydrographer RNO (hydrorno@rno.gov.om), Ministry of Transport and Communications (mansoorw@motc.gov.om) and IHB no later than 1 March 2011.

COUNTRY: _____

ORGANISATION	
HEAD OR MEMBER OF DELEGATION	
RANK OR TITLE	
SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)	
FIRST NAME (GIVEN NAME)	
ADDRESS	
OFFICE TELEPHONE	
MOBILE	
E-MAIL	
ACCOMPANYING PERSON(s) (indicate Yes or No)	
SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)	
FIRST NAME (GIVEN NAME)	
NAMED LETTER OF INVITATION REQUIRED (indicate Yes or No)	

Date: _____

Signature: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE, HOTEL AND MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS

1. The completed registration form should be sent to ONHO with copies to Hydrographer RNO, MoTC and IHB, as soon as possible and not later than 1 March 2011 in order that named invitation letters can be issued to those who require them to facilitate visa applications and other internal administrative processes.

2. As stated in the covering letter, it is intended to hold the 4th RSAHC meeting at the Muscat InterContinental Hotel, where it is hoped delegates will be accommodated. A special rate has been negotiated for all booking made before 21 February 2011, after this date normal rates will apply and no grantee of availability can be given.

3. Full facilities will be available at the venue long with morning and afternoon teas/coffees and lunches for both days. It is intended to hold a small industry exhibition at the venue to allow delegates to discuss issues and requirements with leading providers during breaks. There may also be the opportunity for one or two short presentations on hydrographic related topics.

4. The following are some of the hotels available in the Muscat capital area:

Grand Hyatt	5 star
Crowne Plaza	5 star
Radisson Blue	4 star
Ramada Hotel	4 star
Hotel Muscat Holiday	4 star
Coral Boutique Hotel	4 star
Rotana Hotel	3 star
Ramada Qurum Beach Hotel	3 star
Ibis Hotel	3 star
Park Inn Hotel	3 star

5. Visa requirements must be met before arrival in the Sultanate. Delegates requiring entry visas should submit their applications to the Sultanate's relevant Embassies. Note some delegates will be able to obtain tourist visas on arrival at Muscat International Airport at a cost of 20 Rials. Those delegates requiring a named invitation letter, this will be sent on receipt of their completed registration form.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR 4TH RSAHC MEETING

OPENING REMARKS, ADMINISTRATION AND AGENDA

1. Opening remarks by the RSAHC Chairman and IHB.
2. Administration arrangements and H&S comments.
3. Approval of the Agenda and Timetable.
4. Review of action items from the previous meeting.
5. Review of the Statutes of the Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

6. Report by IHB.
7. National reports (major items and highlights only).
8. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the ROPME Sea Area Region (IHO Special Publication S-55 and questionnaires/updates from RSAHC countries).
9. Report by INT Chart Co-ordinator (*Islamic Republic of Iran*) – Progress on the implementation of the INT Chart Scheme.
10. Report by ENC Co-ordinator (*Islamic Republic of Iran*) – Progress on the implementation of ENC coverage and other issues.
11. New techniques and equipment in hydrography and oceanography.
12. Promulgation of radio navigation Warnings within NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS.
13. Capacity Building matters:
 - i. Training and education; experiences, capabilities and initiatives.
 - ii. ROPME SA CB needs and input to CB management plan and work programme.
 - iii. Regional initiatives and co-ordination for its implementation.
 - iv. Representation at the CBC.
14. Engagement of ROPME SA members with IHB, IHO, IRCC and ??
15. Any other business.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16. Election of the next chairman and vice-chairman.
17. Date and venue of next meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS

18. Approval of List of Actions.
19. Closing remarks by the Chairman.