



11th South West Pacific Hydrographic Conference

16th February 2012, Brisbane, Australia

VANUATU REPORT

Chair and distinguish delegates,

Vanuatu will be presenting a detailed country report to the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) in the next conference due to several factors which I will highlight today and of which will constitute my country report for this conference.

In November 2011, after Robert Ward and Bob Wilson from the IHO visited Vanuatu, an interim National Hydrographic Service committee was officially established. The Current chair to the interim National Committee is Mr. Paul Gambetta. Charley Kalo, who is present here, and I are amongst the other members of the interim committee. I have not been mandated to make a country report today, which is why I said earlier that an official country report will be presented in the next conference.

On the outset, Vanuatu like most other Pacific Island Countries here today, has not established a national coordinating framework that houses or consolidates all relevant stakeholders together to efficiently and effectively implement the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) convention or to the extent of updating our respective nautical charts to IHO standards.

As an example, Vanuatu has recently faced this “lack of institutional coordination framework dilemma” whereby in 2004 when SOPAC undertook a bathymetry survey of the Port Vila harbor for the purpose of producing a tsunami model and in November 2011, the Australian Navy carried out another survey in the same area for the purpose of reviewing the entrance of the harbor. Due to lack of coordination Vanuatu accommodates unnecessary duplication.

Chair and distinguished delegates, Vanuatu will have to sort out it’s in- house matter as a matter of priority.

Thank you

Vanuatu Rep