



South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

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SWPHC LETTER 01/2007

Dear Hydrographer,

CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE - TECHNICAL VISITS

Late last year I wrote to you and indicated that the IHO-CBC had set us the task of conducting the first phase of the Technical Visits during 2007. This involved visits to Tonga and Samoa and included liaison with representatives of Tokelau based in Samoa. The IHO work programme for 2008 covers visits to Kiribati and Papua New Guinea and other SWPHC countries that communicate an interest in a visit.

I am pleased to report that I have been working with Mr Maselino Tominiko and Rear Admiral Ken Barbor of the IHB to have a SWPHC/CBC delegation attend and present at the PacMA meeting in Apia on 16th and 17th April 2007. Mr Tominiko has confirmed that an invitation will be issued. We may also be able to speak to the Maritime Transport Ministers Meeting on the 19th and 20th. Further meetings are being arranged with senior officials from Tokelau and Tonga during the two meetings.

Can you please contact your country representatives for the PacMA and Maritime Transport Ministers Meetings and brief them on the IHO, SWPHC and CBC. The capacity issues and concerns we have for our region should be drawn to their attention. I believe that if they are aware of the reasons for the delegation's attendance, and have advance knowledge of the topics to be presented, then the scene will be set for a positive outcome and agreement on good follow up actions. We will use the opportunity to prepare the way for the 2008 visits to Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Solomons.

I would also like to arrange informal meetings with key officials from your country while we are in Apia. This may need to be in the lunch break or late afternoon. Can you please advise whether or not this is possible and, if so, provide the names of the Heads of Delegations and other key people we should contact.

Can you also advise me of any specific issues relevant to your country that you want raised. This could provide good supporting material for points made and ensure that a Pacific focus is maintained.

The general and specific objectives of the meetings as well as the main topics to be highlighted by the IHO Delegation are included in the Annex to this letter.

The material will be similar to that presented in other countries that have expressed an interest in Capacity Building.

Yours faithfully

John A Spittal

Chair

South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

National Topographer/Hydrographer

New Zealand.

ANNEX

1. The SWPHC/CBC Delegation:

Comprises the Chairman of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) and the Hydrographer of New Zealand, Mr John Spittal, Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau responsible for the coordination of the activities of the SWPHC, Rear Admiral Kenneth Barbor and Mr John Ackrill of Maritime New Zealand.

2. General Objective:

The aim is to assist in the determination of the optimum means of meeting individual government's responsibilities for hydrographic services, as defined in the SOLAS Convention Chapter V, Regulations 4 and 9.

3. Specific Objectives:

- Raise awareness on the importance of hydrography and its contribution to the development of initiatives of socio-economic impact.
- Establish a Program to initiate technical visits for the assessment of regional capacity, aiming the development of a prioritised regional capacity building programme.
- Agree on mechanisms to establish or improve the ongoing collection and circulation of up to date nautical information. This is required for the World Wide Navigation Warning Service (WWNWS) and includes both hydrographic and maritime radio services.
- Assist in the identification of ways to create or improve national/regional hydrographic surveying capacity.
- Assist in the identification of the means required to produce national charts and publications and make them widely available.
- Guide the human resources development effort and offer opportunities for their technical personnel to be trained.
- Encourage membership of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and conformance to international hydrographic standards promulgated by the IHO.
- Update of the IHO publication S-55 "Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide".

4. Presentation: (shall cover the following aspects)

- The International Hydrographic Organization's Work Program and Budget, and its development.

- The international scenario as regard to hydrography (SOLAS obligations).
- Present regional situation concerning hydrographic surveys, nautical charts and MSI.
- Capacity building, training and education opportunities in Hydrography.
- Hydrographic applications other than safety of navigation.
- Benefits of establishing a National Hydrographic Committee.

Distribution:

Kiribati	Captain Miteti Abete
Papua New Guinea	Mr Joseph Kunda
Samoa	Mr Maselino Tomimiko
Tonga	Lt Siua Fifita
	Captain William Johnson
Tokelau	Captain D Brown
	Captain Zak Patesio
Fiji	Captain Felix Maharaj
	Mr Bhaskar Rao
Australia	Captain Rod Nairn
	Mr Jasbir Randhawa
UK	Ms Elizabeth Dunn
France	Ing. En Chef Yves Guillam
USA	Ms Meg Danley