

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY - 2018

1. ***Mauritius Hydrographic Service*** under the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Mauritius, being the nodal agency dealing with hydrographic matters, celebrated World Hydrography Day on 02 and 03 July 2018 at Port Louis harbour and on 04 July 2018 at Mahebourg Fishing Landing Station. The theme for this year's World Hydrography Day was **"Bathymetry –the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways"**. The details of activities conducted as a part of the World Hydrography Day celebrations are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

2. **Opening Ceremony.** The opening ceremony was conducted on-board Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Barracuda. The Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, Acting High Commissioner of India, dignitaries from various Ministries and several stakeholders associated with maritime safety and security, Coastal Zone Management, oceanographic research, environmental protection and port operations were invited for the opening ceremony to showcase hydrographic assets and recent work carried out by the Mauritius Hydrographic Service. Commander Rahul Bhatt coordinated the event as Master of Ceremony and delivered welcome remarks.

(a) **Address by Officer-in-Charge of the Mauritius Hydrographic Service, Commander Rahul Bhatt.** He informed the audience about the vital role that hydrographic services play towards maritime trade and management of ocean resources. The talk further focussed on efforts required to promote and optimise hydrographic services in Mauritius. He apprised the audience about major tasks carried out by the Mauritius Hydrographic Service in the past year while giving an insight into the steps being taken to expand hydrographic services in future. The stakeholders were urged to work together to strengthen and promote hydrographic framework in the future.

(b) **Address by the Acting High Commissioner of India.** His excellency Shri K D Dewal, Acting High Commissioner of India spoke

about the long standing partnership between India and Mauritius in the field of hydrography as well as other sectors. The Acting High Commissioner informed the audience about the high level of engagement between the two countries in the domain of maritime security. He further affirmed the Indian support for development projects planned by Government of Mauritius for efficient management of ocean resources and outer islands.

(c) **Keynote Address.** The Keynote address was delivered by Honourable Purmanund Jhugroo, Minister of Housing and Lands. The Honourable Minister talked about the significance of hydrography in the context of Government's vision to develop ocean based economy. He highlighted the active cooperation between India and Mauritius in the hydrographic sector and welcomed the fact that all seven Mauritian charts have now been accorded INT status and they are available internationally to mariners. Honourable Minister underlined the contribution of the Mauritius Hydrographic Service for national projects in the past one year and stressed upon the need to expand capacity to enable full spectrum of operations associated with a hydrographic service to outer islands under the territory of Mauritius.

(d) **Unveiling the Logo of Mauritius Hydrographic Service.** As a part of the expansion project, the "*Hydrographic Unit*" of this Ministry was renamed to "*Mauritius Hydrographic Service*". A logo of this Office was duly designed and the unveiling was done by the honourable Minister.

(e) **Handing Over of Data for Charting.** The fair-sheet of Survey of Port Mathurin (Rodrigues) and Trou d'Eau Douce was presented by the Honourable Minister to the deputy High Commissioner of India for onward despatch to National hydrographic Office, India. The data would be instrumental in updating navigational products of the region and would be useful for navigation. The data would also be shared with stakeholders for maximising its utility. The exhibition of the equipment was then declared open.

(f) **Sea Sortie on board CGS Barracuda.** A one hour sea sortie for the guests who attended the opening ceremony was organised on-board CGS Barracuda in and around the Port Louis Harbour. This was aimed at providing a first-hand experience to the guests on the importance of the Nautical and Hydrographic Products for a vessel's safety during navigation at sea.

3. **Exhibition of Survey Equipment.** An exhibition showcasing the Hydrographic Equipment was set up by MHS inside the port premises. This was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands. The exhibition was thereafter kept open for students, public officers and public at large from 02 – 03 July 2018 in Port Louis harbour to create awareness about hydrography and showcase the recent works undertaken by the Mauritius Hydrographic Service. A similar exhibition was also organised on 04 July 2018 at Mahebourg Fishing Landing Station to spread awareness in the Southern part of Mauritius. A compilation of videos on hydrography was screened for visitors along with exhibition of hydrographic survey equipment and demonstration of portable equipment on board survey craft. The exhibition was visited by officials, general public, and school / university students.

4. **Visit on-board Inshore Survey Vessel Pathfinder.** A visit on-board the Inshore Survey Vessel Pathfinder was organised for all the visitors on 02 and 03 of July 2018. During the visit the operations of various Hydrographic Survey equipment was showcased which included Echo-sounder, DGPS and Data logging software. On completion on the visit to the Pathfinder a sea sortie on-board Fast Interceptor Boat was also organised which became the highlight of the open days.

5. **Ship Open for Visitors.** After the opening ceremony, the ship was kept open for visitors on 02 and 03 July 2018 for demonstration of nautical products and their use for safe navigation. Invitees were briefed about the roles and capability of the ship.

6. The entire event was organised for a duration of three days in the North and South of Mauritius and it received a wide publicity both in the print and electronic media. The message of the importance of the bathymetric data for sustainable development of oceans seas and waterways was conveyed to the public. Therefor the aim to spread awareness about the critical role Hydrography plays in everyone's life was achieved.

7. **Views.**



Figure 1 Address by the Officer-in-Charge Mauritius Hydrographic Service, Commander Rahul Bhatt



Figure 2 Address by Acting High Commissioner of India Shri K D Dewal



***Figure 3 Keynote Address by Honourable Purmanund Jhugroo,
Minister Of Housing And Lands***

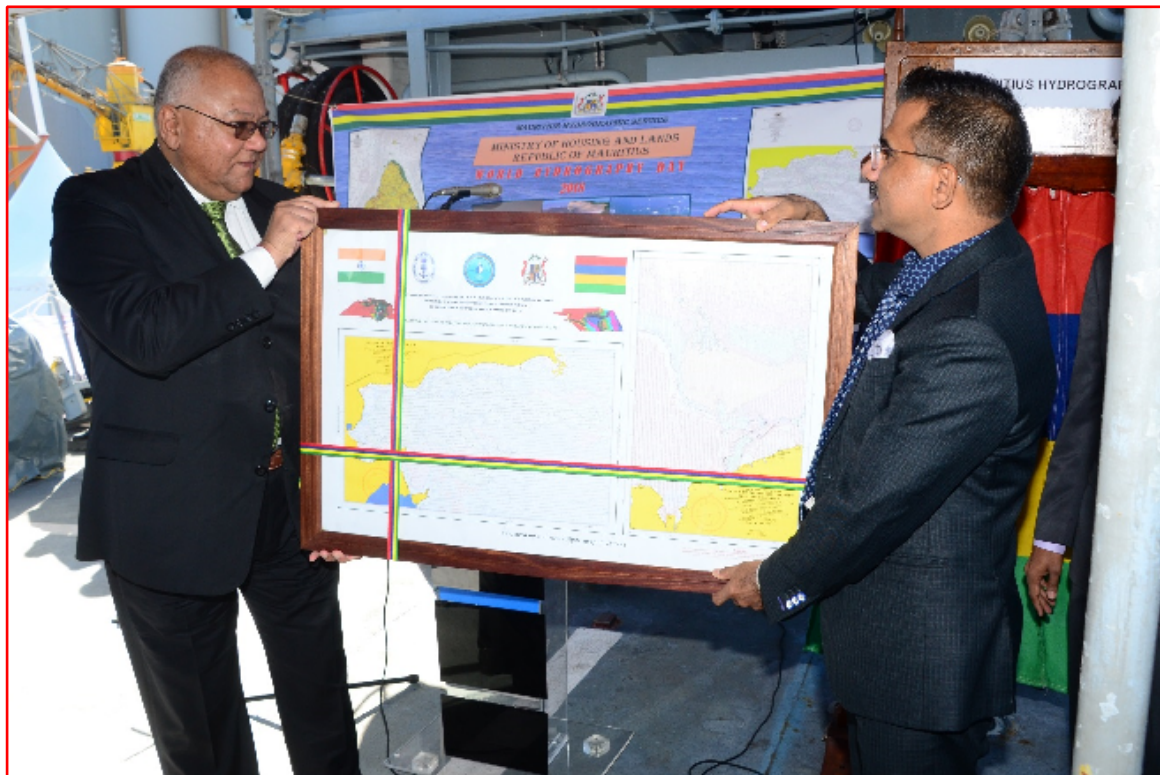


Figure 4 Handing over data for Charting



Figure 6. Unveiling of the Logo of Mauritius Hydrographic Service by Honourable Purmanund Jhugroo, Minister Of Housing And Lands



Figure 5 Inauguration of the Exhibition by the Honourable Minister of 11



Figure 7 Exhibition Of Survey Equipment



Figure 8 Sea Sortie Onboard Coast Guard Ship Barracuda



Figure 9 Sortie onboard Fast Interceptor Boat Planned for all Visitors



Figure 10 Visit onboard Inshore Survey Vessel Pathfinder



Figure 11 Visit of Students at the Exhibition



Figure 12 Inauguration of the Exhibition at Mahebourg by the Honorable Minister of Housing and Lands



Figure 13 Visit of School Children at Mahebourg



Figure 14 Opening Ceremony at Mahebourg