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Sir,

**A PROPOSAL FOR THE UPGRADE, ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION  
OF NIGERIAN NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC SCHOOL PORT HARCOURT,  
NIGERIA AS A REGIONAL CENTER**

**BACKGROUND**

1. As the agency statutorily responsible for hydrography in Nigeria, the Nigerian Navy (NN) established the Hydrographic School Port Harcourt (NNHS), Nigeria in 1981 to train its manpower needs in hydrography. The purpose of the School was to train survey personnel of the NN in SRI, SRII, SRIII, CAT 'B' and ultimately CAT 'A' categories. However, since inception, the School has only been able to train ratings of SR II and III categories due mainly to lack of necessary human and material resources to merit IHO accreditation to conduct higher levels of training.

2. The NN is willing to partner with the IHO/EAtHC for the upgrade, accreditation and perhaps recognition of the School as a regional centre for hydrographic survey training in the West African sub region. It is believed that this objective could be attained with the cooperation and participation of the IHO and would contribute immensely to the development of hydrography in Nigeria and the sub region.

**JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT**

3. Nigeria joined the IHO in the 70s in order to demonstrate her commitment to the goals and objectives of the Organisation. Nigeria is equally a member of the EAtHC established by the IHO to provide a focus on hydrographic needs and activities in the West African sub region. Nigeria has successfully hosted the EAtHC Headquarters from 2008 — 2010. However, the coastal waters of Nigeria are among the hydrographically least developed areas of the world.

4. Considering Nigeria's hydrographic surveying capability potentials, it would contribute effectively to the safety of navigation and the marine environment if given adequate support by IHO in the area of human capacity development. This could be achieved through the upgrade and accreditation of the NNHS. An upgraded and accredited NNHS would contribute greatly to the institutional framework for manpower development in support of hydrographic institutions in Nigeria and in the sub region. Furthermore, the formation of a regional center at least in the English speaking countries would greatly enhance the capabilities in the region.

#### **COUNTRIES INVOLVED**

5. Nigeria is the only country involved in the project.

#### **EXPLANATION OF THE PROBLEM**

6. The NNHS currently does not have modern basic hydrographic survey equipment. The infrastructure in the school such as students and staff accommodation, library and modern training aids are inadequate. Consequently, the School has only been able to handle SRI and SRII training which is not accredited.

7. Over the years, the NN has embarked on training its hydrographic personnel in foreign institutions. However, the high cost of foreign training and some times, lack of foreign training billets have undermined the number of personnel that could be trained abroad. This has resulted in creating a large backlog of untrained hydrographic personnel in the NN. While the NN could afford to train some of its surveying personnel abroad, other Nigerian hydrographic institutions are constrained due to lack of funds. An upgraded and accredited NNHS would provide cheaper, qualitative and timely training for hydrographic surveyors in Nigeria. This opportunity could be extended to the entire hydrographic community in the sub region by recognizing the School as a regional centre.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

8. The general objective of the project is to develop human capacity in hydrographic surveying that will positively contribute to global safety of navigation and the marine environment.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

9. The specific objective of the project is to develop Nigeria's manpower requirements in hydrographic surveying with a view to improving the status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in her waters.

## **OUTPUTS/PRODUCT**

10. Expected output/product of the project includes the availability of qualified manpower which is indispensable in the provision of hydrographic services and products for users at sea.

## **OTHER DELIVERABLES**

11. Other deliverables could include effective management of the marine environment, effective management and utilization of the marine resources for the common good of all including improved status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in the sub-region in general and Nigeria in particular.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWAITED BENEFITS**

12. Despite the shortcomings enumerated above, the NNHS has trained 182 SR II, 272 SR III and 56 Navigation Yeoman for the NN since inception. These ratings form the bulk of personnel of the NN Hydrographic Department and have been able to carry out basic hydrographic surveying for the specific needs of the NN. Furthermore, a few of them have been found suitable for employment as survey technicians by some reputable oil companies in Nigeria after they had retired from the NN. When the School is upgraded and accredited, it would play a key role in training the nation's manpower needs in hydrography and not the navy only. Moreover, the School is the only institution dedicated to hydrographic training in the West African sub region which makes it suitable for adoption as a regional centre.

## **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

13. The following schedule of activities could be adopted in 3 phases for the upgrade:
- a. Assessment visit to NNHO by team of IHO experts.
  - b. Providing technical advice to the NN on modalities for the upgrade of the School to meet IHO requirements for accreditation.
  - c. Accreditation and possible recognition as regional center.

**PAST AND/OR CURRENT RELATED PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY CBSC OR  
OTHER SOURCES**

14. IHO West African Action Team (WAAT) visit to Nigeria in 2004. Training of 3 NN hydrographers in IMA, Italy and several others in India, UK and USA.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'C. J. J.', is written over a horizontal line.

AM MAIHA  
Commodore  
Hydrographer of the Navy  
for the Chief of the Naval Staff

28 Sep 12