

**8<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE EAST ATLANTIC  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
26-29 OCTOBER 2004. BREST-FRANCE**

**NATIONAL REPORT -NIGERIA**

1. The WAAT visit to Nigeria in the autumn of 2002 produced a Report which has been widely circulated among all hydrographic stakeholders in Nigeria. The Report rightly identified some issues that have been inimical to the establishment of adequate human and material infrastructure in support of objectives of the SOLAS V Regulation 9 within our area of responsibility.

2. We have taken the challenge of the credible efforts of the IHO, IHB and the WAAT. In this regard, Nigeria is fully in support of the recommendations of the WAAT Report. We have taken steps to implement aspects of the recommendation, despite a few official bureaucracies, which we consider to be motivational rather than impedimenta!. The following actions are some of the steps we have taken:

- We are willing to establish bilateral arrangements with the UKHO.
- We have formed a professional hydrographic body, as a prelude to the establishment of the National Hydrographic Commission.
- We have established a joint working arrangement between the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office and the National Maritime Authority with the secondment of a Naval Officer to the newly established Department of Hydrographic Services within the National Maritime Authority.
- We are conducting an update of the African Pilot on the Nigerian Chapter.

3. Bearing in mind the pragmatic philosophy of the IHO regarding hydrographic regional cooperation, we would also wish to humbly state some of our existing hydrographic achievements related to training:

- We have a Hydrographic School in one of our coastal city (port-Harcourt) run by the Nigerian Navy. We run Survey Recorders Class I & II Courses for our Naval Ratings. We presently do not have a FIG/IHO accreditation for these courses; this may be considered by IHO for evaluation and subsequent categorization.
- We have about a dozen trained Cat A Hydrographic officers from the Indian Hydrographic School, and 1 officer trained in Nautical Cartography from IMA, Trieste, Italy.

- We presenting have one of our personnel undergoing a Hydrographic course at the University of Plymouth, UK, under the laudable sponsorship initiative from the UKRO.
- We were also fortunate to be beneficiary of the GEBCO-NIPPON Foundation Ocean Mapping course at the University of New-Hampshire USA.

4. We wish to endorse the IHO S-55 documentation on the Status of Charting in Nigeria. We wish to reinstate our determination to take the "Baton and Run", as far as hydrography is concerned.

5. We would like to use this opportunity to inform the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission Conference of the Peer Review Mechanism (PRM) of NEPAD, as a tool for creating hydrographic capacity awareness especially among West African States. This awareness is particularly needed at the policy and decision making levels of government, namely the presidential and ministerial levels. The Mechanism is been employed by some African States in the Educational, Health and Agriculture sectors of the national economy. The Environment which has been identified by NEPAD as one of the eight priority areas for action is devoid of hydrographic capacity building awareness and projects. Any West African State or the IHB could explore this option.

6. We wish to extend our hands of cooperation to all counties represented at the EAHC conference, regarding Hydrographic Capacity building. We would like to share assets and experiences as applicable towards achieving SOLAS V Regulation 9 objectives.