



MACHC-Letter 08/2019

August 20, 2019

To: All MACHC Members, Associate Members and Observers

Subject: Invitation to the 20th MACHC Conference

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to officially invite you to the 20th Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference, scheduled from December 2 to December 6, 2019 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The meeting is graciously hosted by the Naval Hydrographic Service of the Dominican Republic (SHARD).

The official opening of the Conference will begin after lunch on Tuesday, December 3 and end on Friday, December 6. The venue for the 20th MACHC is the Crown Plaza Hotel in Santo Domingo. Registration information for the Conference and hotel reservations is provided below.

If you require a personalized invitation for your internal national administrative purposes, please let me and Erich Frey (Erich.Frey@noaa.gov) know immediately.

Note that MACHC 20 will be preceded by the Hydrographic Governance Seminar, held on December 2-3 (1½ days) with MACHC MMSDI and MICC Working Group pre-plenary meetings held in parallel on December 2. Additionally, there will be a Maritime Safety Information training workshop the following week from December 9-11. Invitations and agendas for these additional meetings will follow separately.

a. MACHC 20 Registration:

Registration for MACHC 20 is now available via the IHO website.

- i. Participants who have previously used the IHO registration system and have an ID/Password, can go to: <http://online.iho-khoa.kr>
 1. Click on Login (upper right corner)
 2. Enter ID and password
 3. Click on Online Registration
 4. Click on Submit in the right side of the MACHC20 line

- ii. Participants who have not previously used the IHO registration system and do not have an ID/Password, can go to: <http://online.iho-khoa.kr>
 - 1. Click on Login (upper right corner)
 - 2. Click on Create User Account
 - 3. Fill in your professional and personal information
 - 4. Click on Create
 - 5. After receiving the confirmation email, follow steps i) 1. to i) 4.

Additional guidelines on the IHO Registration System are provided in Annex A.

b. Hotel and related logistics:

The venue for the Conference will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santo Domingo.

Address: Av. George Washington 218, Santo Domingo 10208, Dominican Republic

The Hotel is conveniently located 25 minutes from the airport and near shopping centers and restaurants. Hotel contact information is as follows:

Contact:	Vanessa Ricardo
Group Reference:	International Hydrographic Organization
Telephone:	829-562-3358
E-mail:	avra17@gmail.com

Room Rates are: US \$ 90.00 (single) and US \$ 105.00 (double). The rate includes breakfast and internet. Please note that a tax of 28% will be added to the lodging.

Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible and include that information in the registration form above.

The Dominican Republic Navy will provide transportation from the airport to the Crowne Plaza hotel beginning from 06:00-24:00 on Sunday, December 1. Please provide your flight information as soon as conveniently possible via the on-line registration form above.

All meeting participants should check well in advance if a visa to enter the Dominican Republic is needed and make the application for it. The embassies of the Dominican Republic in each country will provide the corresponding details of the visa requirements. If you have additional questions, the local contact in the Dominican Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs for visas is:

Alexandra Gutiérrez
Visa@mirex.gob.do
(809) 987-7001 EXT. 7167, 7169, 7170
RELEXTERIORES@MIREX.GOB.DO

Further details on visas and other local logistics information are found in Annex B. For any general questions about the venue or local logistics, please contact:

Captain Juan Pablo Sandoval García of the Dominican Republic Hydrographic Service
dir.hidrografico@academianaval.edu.do

c. Provisional Agenda:

A provisional Agenda is attached as Annex C, which is structured to be responsive to the desired changes expressed at MACHC 19. The meeting is three days and will not extend into the weekend. Also note that the National Reports are being presented in three separate concurrent breakout groups so there can be better engagement and discussion on the content and also generate results to be considered by the Plenary. Be sure to use the National Report presentation template (Annex D).

All of these documents will soon be posted to the IHO MACHC website. I would appreciate your thoughts and further suggestions regarding the agenda and ask you to provide them to me at MACHC.Chair@noaa.gov. I look forward to progressing the important issues and goals of MACHC and building on the success of previous MACHC Conferences.

Sincerely,



Kathryn L. Ries
Deputy Director, Office of Coast Survey
U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Chair, MesoAmerican and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission
MACHC.Chair@noaa.gov

Annexes:

- A: Guidelines for MACHC-20 Registration
- B: Visa and Local Logistics information
- C: Provisional Agenda
- D: National Report Presentation Template