

**MINUTES OF THE 5TH NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC) CONFERENCE,
28 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH 2005, JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA**

OPENING REMARKS, ADMINISTRATION AND AGENDA

Agenda Item 1: Remarks by the Chairman & Host Member State

1. Dr Wyn Williams, NIOHC Chairman, Chief Executive (UKHO) and UK National Hydrographer, welcomed delegates to 5th meeting of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) and began his address by offering condolences to countries affected by the 26th December 2004 tsunami. He was very pleased to see so many countries attending the Conference including representatives from neighbouring Regional Hydrographic Commissions, IOC and IMO. He hoped that the meeting would be an opportunity for nations to cooperate and assist one another to ensure the continued effectiveness of surveying and nautical cartography within the region.

2. General Morayyea Al-Shahrani, Director of General Directorate of Military Survey (GDMS), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, spoke of the honour of hosting the 5th NIOHC Conference in Jeddah and highlighted the devastation caused by the tsunami in the region. He hoped that through the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and related organisations, such as IMO, IOC, IALA, ROPME and PERSGA, that a greater understanding of hydrography in the region would be achieved together with the establishment of a Tsunami Warning System to help minimise future destruction from a similar seismic event. He concluded by encouraging nations to cooperate with one another to achieve a regional response to global events or initiatives and hoped that this Conference would support local and regional objectives.

Agenda Item 2: Address by the President IHB

3. Admiral Maratos informed the Conference of the importance of special agenda item 7: Tsunami and that the IHO had been in close contact with affected Member States to collect and collate information and coordinate support. He also highlighted the main points covered by the Tsunami agenda item at the EAHC meeting in Seoul the previous week and commented that a special session has been arranged on 16th April 2005, following the 3rd EIHC, to co-ordinate the IHO response. Finally, he gave a brief explanation of the rationale for holding the 3rd EIHC and the importance of the work of the SPWG and the IHOCBC.

Agenda Item 3: Administrative Arrangements

4. The list of participants to the Conference is at Annex A.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the Agenda

5. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

Agenda Item 5: Review of Action Items from the previous meeting

6. The following Action Items were agreed to be complete or closed and all other Actions were taken under the appropriate 5th NIOHC Conference Agenda Items:

- 3.7b Implementation of SOLAS Chapter V by IHO Member States
Complete – progressed through the IMO
- 3.7 Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII area
Complete – progressed through the IMO
- Exchange of information through National reports
Complete
- 10.22 Establishing of Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure and way ahead
Closed

Agenda Item 6: Review Statutes of the Commission

7. There were no proposed amendments to the Statutes. Admiral Maratos, IHB, stated that Saudi Arabia needs only 2 more votes to become a member of the IHO which will then automatically entitle them to Full Membership of the NIOHC. Oman reported that their application for NIOHC membership is still under consideration at the Ministry of Transport. Sudan stated a desire to join the IHO. Pakistan requested a copy of the statutes and asked to become a member of the NIOHC. Admiral Maratos, IHB, advised Pakistan that since they are a Member of an adjacent RHC (RSAHC), they qualify for Associate Membership under the terms of Article 1.c).

8. Admiral Maratos, IHB, asked India to forward the original NIOHC statutes signature pages to the IHB, as it is the official repository of Regional Hydrographic Commission statutes. He also stated that a new standardised NIOHC statutes signature page, with name, signature and date columns, would be circulated for re-signing.

Action for India

India to forward the original NIOHC statutes signature page(s) to IHB, indicating the name and date of each signatory.

Action for IHB

IHB to produce a standardised NIOHC statutes signature page, showing name, signature and date of signatories and to circulate this document for each signatory to re-sign.

THE MEETING

Agenda Item 7: Special Agenda Item – 26th December 2004 Tsunami – 7a: Damage reports from Member States affected

9. The Chairman asked Captain Barritt, to display a table which incorporated tsunami damage reports from the EAHC region. Member States were then invited to give damage reports to the Conference:

- Bahrain, Egypt, France, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, USA & UK reported no damage.
- Bangladesh gave a verbal damage report:
Although a low lying densely populated country susceptible to tidal fluctuations no significant damage had occurred.
- India gave a damage report presentation (Annex C):
The Nicobar and Andaman Islands suffered massive devastation and plans are in motion to survey affected areas.
- Indonesia; Admiral Maratos, IHB, gave a verbal damage report:
Indonesia is to discuss priorities for surveying affected ports and IHO will provide support. Concerns over reported shoals in the Malacca Straits appear to be unfounded.
- Pakistan gave a verbal damage report:
No serious damage to navigation aids and infrastructure or sedimentation movement affecting main shipping channels.
- Seychelles gave a verbal damage report:
The report indicated that the damage suffered by the Seychelles was not as severe as Sri Lanka or the Maldives. The most affected area was the fishing port, which needs to be restored, rebuilt and finally resurveyed. Two wrecks in the vicinity of Victoria Harbour need to be surveyed to confirm possible positional changes. Comment was also made on the probable damage to 15% of the coral reefs around the waters of the Seychelles.
- Sri Lanka gave a damage report presentation (Annex C):
The presentation gave an impressive summary of the impact of the tsunami and acknowledged assistance already rendered by the IHO, Germany, India and UK.
- Thailand gave a damage report presentation (Annex C):
No serious damage to navigation aids and infrastructure but some sedimentation movement in

minor channels affecting small boats; fishing vessels, etc. The main shipping channels and routes are unaffected.

- The President of the IHB gave a presentation on the actions of the IHB (Annex C).

10. Captain Barritt updated the Table of Reported Damage and Requests for Assistance (Annex C) to reflect input from the Conference and commented that information from Myanmar and the Maldives was missing from the table and that he would endeavour to contact the Maldives for damage information. He also confirmed that the Malacca Straits was not affected by sedimentation problems associated with the tsunami. It was noted that this information will be used for discussions at the special session on the tsunami at the forthcoming 3rd EIHC.

11. Member States endorsed the content of the amended Table of Reported Damage and Requests for Assistance (Annex C) as a true reflection of individual country damage reports.

Actions for IHB

IHB, Captain Barritt RN, is to combine damage reports from the recent EAHC and NIOHC Conferences to create a single Tsunami affected region table.

IHB, Captain Barritt RN, to contact the Maldives for input to the damage report table collated for this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7b: Nations requirements for assistance and aid

12. Member States were invited to confirm the level of required assistance shown in the Table of Reported Damage and Requests for Assistance (Annex C). The following countries confirmed that assistance was required:

- Bangladesh – Short term requirement for tidal stations.
- Seychelles – Short term requirement for check survey to ascertain possible wreck movement in the approaches to Victoria Harbour. Medium and longer term requirement for survey of fishing harbour after renovation/rebuilding work complete.
- Sri Lanka – Short term requirement for check surveys of affected areas. Medium and longer term requirement for new survey vessel, restoration of NHO capacity and full surveys of affected areas.

13. India and Thailand confirmed that their National Recovery Plans were well under way and that no International assistance/aid was required. India also stated that they have provided Sri Lanka with surveying and hydrographic assistance from the early days of the disaster and can offer 'in Region' assistance to recipient countries.

Actions for Bangladesh, Seychelles and Sri Lanka

Bangladesh, Seychelles and Sri Lanka to confirm level of assistance required from donor countries.

Action for India

India to co-ordinate assistance to recipient countries from within the Region.

Agenda Item 7c: Information on International assistance/aid programmes

14. Member States were invited to confirm whether they could provide assistance/aid to recipient countries. Some countries needed to seek authorisation from their governments before making commitments. The following countries confirmed that they could provide assistance/aid:

- Germany – stated that it has historical capacity building and bilateral links to Sri Lanka and can provide assistance including surveying, equipment provision and training, in the short, medium and longer term.
- France – offered survey assistance from a vessel currently based in the region and survey training.

- India – confirmed its desire to provide ‘in Region’ surveying assistance, including cartographic/surveying training.
- Norway – IHB informed the Conference of Norway’s offer to replace tidal stations.
- UK – offered a range of assistance: survey support, chart production (for rapid promulgation of new information to mariners), cartographic/surveying training, coastal zone management and equipment. Requests for equipment should be passed through UK embassies in country.
- USA – offered survey assistance whilst its naval presence was in the region, fly away survey teams, equipment loans and survey training.
- IOC – offered to fund training in coastal zone management and coastal bathymetry to assist capacity building.

15. Captain Barritt, IHB updated the Table of Offers of Assistance (Annex C) to reflect input from the Conference.

16. Member States discussed how best to coordinate the offers of assistance to match requests and Germany agreed to organise ‘out of Region’ assistance to recipient countries, consulting France, Norway, UK and USA, as appropriate.

Action for Germany

Germany to organise ‘out of NIOHC Region’ assistance to recipient countries, consulting France, Norway, UK and USA, as appropriate.

17. Admiral Maratos, IHB commented that the EAHC discussed the lessons learnt from the IHB’s role in collecting, collating and coordinating information on the Tsunami and adopted four recommendations to improve the process. It was noted that close cooperation with many Member States was very good and the main concern was how to ensure that a continuous flow of good quality information was passed onto Mariners. The recommendations adopted at the recent EAHC meeting in South Korea were discussed by delegates and the NIOHC agreed to adopt the following disaster response:

Actions for NIOHC

- 1. Chairman of the RHC should maintain a list of national points of contact based on entries in the IHO Year Book. Each point of contact should maintain a list of responsible authorities e.g. Marine Departments, Port Authorities.**
- 2. RHC should consider forming a joint reconnaissance/fact-finding team.**
- 3. Chairman of the RHC should facilitate bilateral arrangements, matching requests for assistance with offers of assistance, and then communicate with IHB where resources cannot be provided from within region.**
- 4. Regular table-top exercises should be carried out to assure readiness in the event of a similar disaster.**

18. As part of the fact finding element of the International assistance programme UK and USA gave very brief presentations on their post Tsunami activities in the Region. The UK presentation (Annex C) focussed on the survey work in the region of the Tsunami epicentre. The US presentation (Annex C) highlighted its check survey work off the coast of Indonesia.

19. The IOC gave a presentation (Annex C) on two initiatives: IOC Regional Global Tsunami Warning Systems and UNEP Coastal Zone Rehabilitation and Management in the Tsunami affected region. These initiatives highlighted the need for adequate coastal surveys to assist town planners to identify areas for housing and resort developments as well as for hydrographic purposes. IOC stated that many of these projects are carried out as high level government initiatives. Some Member States raised concerns that they are sometimes not informed of these initiatives.

20. The IOC also invited Member States to attend the UNESCO organised International Meeting in Paris, 3rd to 8th March 2005 to discuss a proposal for an Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System. The Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System will be the first step towards building a Global

Tsunami Early Warning System. The IOC suggested that the NIOHC should agree the wording of a resolution to endorse the implementation of such a system. The following was agreed:

NIOHC Resolution

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to establish a Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean and the submission of the IOC Proposal to contribute to the development of Coastal Bathymetry in the region by assuming a coordinating role in this undertaking,

- 1. Recognizing the critical importance of Coastal Bathymetry for regional and global Tsunami Warning Systems as well as for Coastal Zone Rehabilitation and Management,**
- 2. Decided to support the IOC Proposal for building the capacities of States to enable them to construct national databases and maps of Coastal Bathymetry within the region,**
- 3. Urging Hydrographic Offices and NAVAREA Coordinators in the region to consider involving themselves in the implementation of the IOC Project, and**
- 4. Inviting Hydrographic Offices and NAVAREA Coordinators to provide the IOC Secretariat and the IHB with the names of primary contact persons not later than March 15, 2005. NIOHC unanimously agreed that the North Indian Ocean region urgently requires the development of a regional/global Tsunami Early Warning System.**

Agenda Item 8: Report by the IHB

21. Admiral Maratos, IHB gave a report (Annex C) to the Commission on the following main topics: SPWG, the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Capacity Building, GEBCO, IHO Publications S-44, S-55 & M13, and liaison with other international organisations including IALA, IMO, United Nations and FIG.

Agenda Item 9: National Reports

22. Member States were invited to present highlights from their National Reports and the following countries responded:

- Bangladesh National Report (Annex C)
- France National Report (Annex C)
- India National Report (Annex C)
- Oman National Report (Annex C)
- Saudi Arabia National Report (Annex C)
- Seychelles National Report (Annex C)
- Sri Lanka National Report (Annex C)
- Sudan National Report (Annex C)
- Thailand National Report (Annex C)
- US National Report (Annex C)
- UK National Report (Annex C)

23. Some Member States raised concerns that the format of National Reports varied between countries within a Commission and also between Regional Hydrographic Commissions. It was suggested that the IHB should create a proforma for National Reports in an effort to standardise input to Commissions.

Action for IHB

IHB to consider the creation of a proforma for National Reports in an effort to achieve consistency of input to Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

Agenda Item 10: Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in North Indian Ocean Region

24. Captain Barritt, IHB Coordinator, reported progress on updating S-55 (Annex C) noting its importance in briefing international organisations such as the IMO, the United Nations and the World

Bank, and its fundamental importance for capacity building. He commented that some NIOHC Member States have not supplied data to S-55 and encouraged delegates to submit data as soon as they could.

Actions for Member States

Member States, who have not already submitted S-55 information to forward required data to IHB, by 30th June 2005.

Member States who have already submitted S-55 information to forward updates to IHB, by 30th June 2005.

Agenda Item 11: Capacity Building

25. Captain Barritt, Vice Chairman IHOCBC, gave a presentation on Capacity Building (Annex C), outlining the strategy and procedures which have been developed.

26. Captain Barritt concluded by proposing that the NIOHC should bid for the programmed technical visit to the region in 2006 to be followed by a further visit in 2007 to the remaining Red Sea States. Saudi Arabia suggested that PERGSA national representatives should be included in the itinerary of both visits. It was also agreed that the NIOHC should bid for a Technical Workshop.

Actions for NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to request that the IHB include PERGSA within the itinerary of the proposed three country technical visit in 2006.

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to bid for a second technical visit by organising a further visit to include the other Red Sea counties in 2007, including PERGSA national representatives.

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to bid for a Phase 1 Technical Workshop for the Red Sea countries in the 2nd or 3rd quarters of 2007.

Agenda Item 12: Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII area, MSI in NAVAREA VIII area and the implementation of GMDSS

27. India gave a presentation on the promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII (Annex C) and remarked that there were no problems within the region. Pakistan then gave a presentation on the promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA IX (Annex C).

Agenda Item 13: Report by INT Chart Coordinator (India) – Progress on implementation of the INT Chart Scheme

28. The INT Chart Coordinator for Area J (India) gave a short verbal presentation on the progress of the INT Chart scheme. It was confirmed that the area J series consists of 143 charts and Thailand has also proposed an additional 5 INT charts. The number of INT charts to be produced by country was outlined as Follows:

- Bangladesh 11
- India 53
- France 4
- Oman 5
- Pakistan 3
- Thailand 5
- USA 1
- UK 68

29. USA stated that it would be impractical to progress the production of the allocated INT chart since it was soon to end paper chart production to concentrate its business on digital chart production. The UK offered to assist USA by taking over Producer Nation status for the INT chart and India confirmed that it would amend the INT chart scheme accordingly.

Action for India

India to amend the INT chart scheme for area J to reflect the change of Producer Nation of INT chart 7112 from US to UK.

Agenda Item 14: ENC Issues

14a: Identification of key routes and ports

30. The Chairman introduced Peter Wright, Secretary of the WEND Task Group, who explained the background to this agenda item highlighting that Admiral Barbour's IHB letter on ENC Production was the driving force behind discussing these ENC issues. He then outlined the Chairman's proposal for ENC Production within the region (Annex C).

31. Member States were invited to send their comments on the diagram of Key Shipping Routes and Ports by 30th March 2005. Some discussion centred on the need to take account of shipping routes and ports on the boundaries with other areas. Saudi Arabia requested more information on the methods used to compile the Key Shipping Routes and Ports diagram. The US confirmed that the Key Shipping Routes and Ports diagram appeared to match information collated from satellite imagery.

Action for UK

UK to send the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia more information on the method used to identify key shipping routes and ports, and the requirement for ENCs in region J.

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the diagram of the key shipping routes and ports within Area J by 30th March 2005.

14b: Requirements for ENC – schema and timeline for production

32. Peter Wright stated that the ENC scheme was based on the INT chart scheme for the region and invited Member States to send their comments on the proposal to the chairman by 30th March 2005. He also commented that the proposed ENC scheme was a solution based on the minimum coverage of ENCs required for international shipping.

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the Chairman's proposal for ENC production within Area J by 30th March 2005.

14c: Identification of producer nations

33. Peter Wright commented that the list of Producer Nations for ENCs was based on the Producer Nations for the corresponding INT charts for the region and invited Member States to send their comments on the proposal by 30th March 2005.

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the list of Producer Nations for ENCs within area J by 30th March 2005.

14d: Assistance with ENC production

34. France, India and UK confirmed that they are willing to assist Member States with ENC Production. Member States were invited to discuss ENC assistance with donor countries through

separate bilateral discussions or within the open forum of the meeting. Bangladesh, Oman, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia stated that they would seek ENC Production assistance from UK.

14e. ENC distribution including RENCs

35. Peter Wright emphasized the importance of ENC distribution and the importance of RENCs for ensuring consistency of ENCs and for providing one-stop shops.

36. Horst Hecht, Chairman of the WEND Task Group, concluded the topic by urging Member States to produce ENCs or seek assistance to do so, because Official ENCs make seas safer. He also commented that data quality and consistency is problematic and these issues can be resolved by using RENCs to monitor quality control and distribute ENCs.

37. France endorsed the comments made by the other members of the WEND Task Group and stated that it is true that some areas of the world have difficulties with ENC coverage and production and that the only way forward is through cooperation. He also commented that it is important that the hydrographic community highlight the difference between 'official' and 'unofficial' data.

Action for Member States

Member States to arrange for the distribution of their ENCs, taking note of the services provided by existing RENCs.

Agenda Item 15: Training and Education (Task 2.1.4 IHO WP) activities and studies/Exchange of training facilities

38. Member States were invited to present highlights from their National Hydrographic Office Training and Education programmes and the following countries responded:

- Bangladesh – National Oceanographic Research Institute to set up research in the Bay of Bengal area.
- France – Provide Category A & B survey training and Category A cartography training.
- Egypt – Provide University courses.
- Germany – Provide on-the-job training for hydrography and ENC Production through bilateral arrangements and University courses.
- India – Provide Category A & B survey training, University courses, ENC Production and cartography training.
- Oman – Planning to provide University courses.
- Pakistan – Provide Category A & B survey training and planning to provide University courses.
- Saudi Arabia- Provide University courses.
- Seychelles – Benefit from training from France, India and UK.
- Sri Lanka – Provide University courses and Benefit from training from India.
- Sudan – Basic training for mariners.
- Thailand – Provide Category A & B survey training.
- US – Provide Category A & B survey training and University courses.
- UK – Provide Category A & B survey training, University courses, ENC Production and cartography training (UK and in country).

39. The Chairman emphasized the importance of surveying and training to National Hydrographic Offices and highlighted the wealth of training available to countries in NIOHC region. The IOC urged Member States to apply for Education Grants for 2005 and IHB offered to coordinate a request from NIOHC Member States noting that the IHB and IOC would further discuss the issue.

Action for IHB

IHB to coordinate requests from NIOHC Member States who wish to apply for IOC Education Grants for 2005.

Agenda Item 16: New techniques and equipment in Hydrography and Oceanography

40. Member States were invited to highlight any new techniques and equipment in hydrography and oceanography undertaken in their National Hydrographic Office and the following countries responded:

- France – Coastchart project, funded by European Space Agency, is underway; it aims to provide the coastline of West Africa from satellite imagery (SAR and HRV) at scales from 1:15, 000 to 1: 50, 000.
Also, a 3D model of the Global Ocean with specific modelling of the North Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea is available at www.mercator.fr providing information on currents, temperature and salinity at random depths.
- India – A field survey database is currently under development. Also looking into print-on-demand systems for paper chart production. A helicopter fit is being assessed with LADS.
- Pakistan – Progressing with bids for 2 new survey vessels, one for deep water.
- Saudi Arabia – CAD systems for surveying.
- US – Added extra tracking stations to Southern Hemisphere leading to a 30% increase in GPS precision.
- UK – UKHO is undergoing a major computer systems upgrade called the (Annex C). The four main areas of improvement are: Archive Catalogue Project, Source Data Receipt and Assessment, Hydrographic Database and Case-by-Case Projects.

Agenda Item 17: Co-ordination between Member States

41. UK gave a brief presentation on how it proposes to extend its well established and successful bilateral arrangements programme. It began by focusing on the changes affecting National Hydrographic Offices by the growth of the ‘digital data revolution’. In an effort to take account of these changes the UKHO is planning to extend the scope of the bilateral arrangements, to future proof them for the digital era, both for SOLAS navigation and for the emerging non-navigational and leisure applications.

42. Mr Ehsan Rahman, Business Development Manger, Marine Division, Almisehal, at the request of Saudi Arabia, gave a presentation on work within the Red Sea and Gulf regions. Almisehal is a diverse company specializing in PR, communications, and Defence interests in the region.

Agenda Item 18: SPWG Report and programme for EIHC 2005

43. Member States agreed to subsume the SPWG Seminar within this agenda item. The NIOHC Chairman & Vice Chairman of SPWG, gave a presentation on the study report into the organizational structure and procedures of the IHO (Annex C). The presentation covered the main issues including: Background, SPWG Tasking, Study Methodology, IHO Strengths and Weaknesses, IHO Vision, Mission and Objectives, Proposed IHO Model, Proposed IHO Procedures and Costs & effectiveness.

44. Admiral Maratos, IHB, referred to the three key EIHC documents: Proposals to the 3^d EIHC, Convention of the IHO (consolidated version) and the General Regulations of the IHO. Conference documentation relating to the 3rd EIHC is available at the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr).

45. USA stated that their Head of Delegation to the 3^d EIHC, Admiral McGee sent an open letter supporting the aims and objectives of the SPWG study report. Member States then discussed the issue of RHC support for the Study report and agreed that the NIOHC should adopt a resolution to support the proposals put to the 3rd EIHC.

Resolution for Member States

In principle, the NIOHC support the proposals put to the 3rd EIHC.

Agenda Item 19: Any other business

46. Thailand enquired if assistance was available for expenses attending Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) Conferences. IHB suggested that the NIOHC could legitimately send a bid to the IHO Capacity Building Committee for expenses to attend RHC Conferences.

ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR, DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agenda Item 20: Election of next Chairman and Vice Chairman

47. Member States agreed that the current Chairman and Vice Chairman should retain their positions for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 21: Next Meeting (Venue and date)

48. Member States agreed that the next NIOHC Conference would take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka in early March 2006. UK agreed to assist Sri Lanka with organization and preparation of the Conference.

CLOSING REMARKS & ACTIONS LIST

Agenda Item 22: Closing remarks by the Chairman

49. The Chairman thanked the delegates for their thoughtful contributions to the meeting and for their exceptional spirit of cooperation, which led to good humored balanced debate. He thanked Admiral Maratos for attending the Conference and was grateful for his support. Finally, he thanked Commodore Al-Shehri for his outstanding hosting and superb Conference organization and presented him with a small gift as a token of his appreciation.

50. The list of 5th NIOHC Actions is at Annex B.



Dr Wyn Williams,
North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Chairman
Chief Executive UKHO and National Hydrographer

Dated: 17th March 2005
Our Reference: HH317/006/046-02

List of Enclosures:

Annex A: List of Participants to the 5th NIOHC Conference.
Annex B: List of Actions and Resolutions of the 5th NIOHC Conference.
Annex C: List of 5th NIOHC Conference Documents

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5th NIOHC CONFERENCE
LIST OF ACTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

Agenda Item 6: Review Statutes of the Commission

Action for India

India to forward the original NIOHC statutes signature page(s) to IHB, indicating the name and date of each signatory.

Action for IHB

IHB to produce a standardised NIOHC statutes signature page, showing name, signature and date of signatories and to circulate this document for each signatory to re-sign.

**Agenda Item 7: Special Agenda Item – 26th December 2004 Tsunami –
7a. Damage reports from Member States affected**

Actions for IHB

IHB, Captain Barritt RN, is to combine damage reports from the recent EAHC and NIOHC Conferences to create a single Tsunami affected region table.

IHB, Captain Barritt RN, to contact the Maldives for input to the damage report table collated for this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7b. Nations requirements for assistance and aid

Actions for Bangladesh, Seychelles and Sri Lanka

Bangladesh, Seychelles and Sri Lanka to confirm level of assistance required from donor countries.

Action for India

India to coordinate assistance to recipient countries from within the Region.

Agenda Item 7c. Information on International assistance/aid programmes

Action for Germany

Germany to organise 'out of NIOHC Region' assistance to recipient countries, consulting France, Norway, UK and USA, as appropriate.

Actions for NIOHC

1. Chairman of the RHC should maintain a list of national points of contact based on entries in the IHO Year Book. Each point of contact should maintain a list of responsible authorities e.g. Marine Departments, Port Authorities.
2. RHC should consider forming a joint reconnaissance/fact-finding team.
3. Chairman of the RHC should facilitate bilateral arrangements, matching requests for assistance with offers of assistance, and then communicate with IHB where resources cannot be provided from within region.
4. Regular table-top exercises should be carried out to assure readiness in the event of a similar disaster.

NIOHC Resolution

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to establish a Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean and the submission of the IOC Proposal to contribute to the development of Coastal Bathymetry in the region by assuming a coordinating role in this undertaking,

- Recognizing the critical importance of Coastal Bathymetry for regional and global Tsunami Warning Systems as well as for Coastal Zone Rehabilitation and Management,
- Decided to support the IOC Proposal for building the capacities of States to enable them to construct national databases and maps of Coastal Bathymetry within the region,
- Urging Hydrographic Offices and NAVAREA Coordinators in the region to consider involving themselves in the implementation of the IOC Project, and
- Inviting Hydrographic Offices and NAVAREA Coordinators to provide the IOC Secretariat and the IHB with the names of primary contact persons not later than March 15, 2005. NIOHC unanimously agreed that the North Indian Ocean region urgently requires the development of a regional/global Tsunami Early Warning System.

Agenda Item 9: National Reports

Action for IHB

IHB to consider the creation of a proforma for National Reports in an effort to achieve consistency of input to Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

Agenda Item 10: Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in North Indian Ocean Region

Actions for Member States

Member States, who have not already submitted S-55 information to forward required data to IHB, by 30th June 2005.

Member States who have already submitted S-55 information to forward updates to IHB, by 30th June 2005.

Agenda Item 11: Capacity Building

Actions for NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to request that the IHB include PERSGA within the itinerary of the proposed three country technical visit in 2006.

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to bid for a second technical visit by organising a further visit to include the other Red Sea countries in 2007, including PERGSA national representatives.

NIOHC Representative at IHOCBC to bid for a Phase 1 Technical Workshop for the Red Sea countries in the 2nd or 3rd quarters of 2007.

Agenda Item 13: Report by INT Chart Coordinator (India) – Progress on implementation of the INT Chart Scheme

Action for India

India to amend the INT chart scheme for area J to reflect the change of Producer Nation of INT chart 7112 from US to UK.

Agenda Item 14: ENC Issues

14a. Identification of key routes and ports

Action for UK

UK to send the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia more information on the method used to identify key shipping routes and ports, and the requirement for ENCs in region J.

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the diagram of the key shipping routes and ports within Area J by 30th March 2005.

14b. Requirements for ENC – schema and timeline for production

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the Chairman's proposal for ENC production within Area J by 30th March 2005.

14c. Identification of producer nations

Action for Member States

Member States to send their comments on the list of Producer Nations for ENCs within area J by 30th March 2005.

14e. ENC distribution including RENCs

Action for Member States

Member States to arrange for the distribution of their ENCs, taking note of the services provided by existing RENCs.

Agenda Item 15: Training and Education (Task 2.1.4 IHO WP) activities and studies/Exchange of training facilities

Action for IHB

IHB to coordinate requests from NIOHC Member States who wish to apply for IOC Education Grants for 2005.

Agenda Item 18: SPWG Report and programme for EIHC 2005

Resolution for Member States

In principle, the NIOHC support the proposals put to the 3rd EIHC.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

No	Title	Comment
1	Table of Reported Damage and Requests for Assistance.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
2	Table of Offers of Assistance.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
3	Damage Report presentation – India.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
4	Damage Report presentation – Sri Lanka.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
5	Damage Report presentation – Thailand.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
6	Presentation on the actions of the IHB.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
7	UK fact finding presentation in tsunami epicentre.	Circulated at the Conference
8	US fact finding presentation off the coast of Indonesia.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
9	IOC Regional Global Tsunami Warning Systems and UNEP Coastal Zone Rehabilitation presentations.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
10	IHB Report to the 5 th NIOHC Conference.	Circulated at the Conference
11	National Report of Bangladesh.	Circulated at the Conference
12	National Report of France.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
13	National Report of India.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
14	National Report of Oman.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
15	National Report of Saudi Arabia.	Circulated at the Conference
16	National Report of Seychelles.	Circulated at the Conference
17	National Report of Sri Lanka.	Circulated at the Conference
18	National Report of Sudan.	Circulated at the Conference
19	National Report of Thailand.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
20	National Report of UK.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
21	National Report of USA.	Circulated at the Conference
22	Presentation on S-55 and IHOCBC.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
23	Presentation on the promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA VIII.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
24	Presentation on the promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA IX.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
25	NIOHC Chairman's proposal for ENC Production within the region.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
26	UK paper on its Productions System Upgrade.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr
27	Presentation on the SPWG study report.	Available at www.iho.shom.fr