

**MINUTES OF THE  
7TH NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)  
CONFERENCE,  
27 FEBRUARY TO 02 MARCH 2007  
PATTAYA, THAILAND**

**OPENING REMARKS, ADMINISTRATION AND AGENDA**

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chairman & Host Member State and address by the President IHB**

1. Proceedings were opened with a Welcome Address by Admiral Suchart Yanothai, Assistant Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Navy, who extended a warm welcome to all participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> NIOHC and expressed his honour at being able to host the 7th NIOHC meeting in Thailand. He wished the participants a positive meeting which encouraged the sharing of experience and knowledge, bringing benefit to all.

2. Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, NIOHC Chairman, thanked Admiral Suchart for his kind words and welcomed participants to the meeting. He expressed his pleasure at chairing his very first RHC and looked forward to a fruitful meeting which would focus on delivery and constructive output enabling the Commission to move forward and ensuring the continued effectiveness of surveying and nautical cartography within the area.

**Agenda Item 2: Address by the President IHB**

3. Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos, President IHB expressed his pleasure at being able to participate in the meeting. He continued by explaining the importance of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions which had been established to better respond to the requirements of SOLAS Chapter 5. He went on to explain the changes taking place within the organisation of the IHO which would enable it to respond to the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Admiral Maratos concluded by thanking participants for their attendance and extended his gratitude to Thailand for hosting this, the 7<sup>th</sup> NIOHC.

**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. It was agreed that France's request to discuss technical standards for Marine Highways would be taken under Agenda Item 17 - Any other Business.

6. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

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

7. The following Action Items were agreed to be complete or closed and all other Actions were taken under the appropriate 7th NIOHC Conference Agenda Items:

- 5.1 – Complete
- 5.2 – Complete but see further discussion under Agenda Item 6
- 5.3 – Complete
- 6.1 – Complete
- 7.1 – Complete
- 7.2 – Complete
- 7.3 – Complete
- 7.4 – Complete but see further discussion under Agenda Item 8
- 7.5 – Complete. No further requests for assistance received but India remain ready to help if required.
- 7.6 – Complete but see further discussion under Agenda Item 8
- 7.7 – Complete
- 7.8 – Closed
- 12.1 – Discussed under Agenda Item 13
- 12.2 – Complete. To be reviewed once more ENC are available.
- 14.1 – Complete
- 15.2 – Complete (copy supplied to each participant at start of 7<sup>th</sup> NIOHC – see Annex C)
- 15.3 – No further action (SWAtHC created Dec 06. See IHO CL86/2006 dated 19 Dec 06)

#### **Agenda Item 6: Review Statutes of the Commission**

8. The 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC had voted to amend the Statutes to reflect Member States' decision to hold meetings annually. This had been incorporated into the Statutes ready for signing by Member States during the 7<sup>th</sup> NIOHC. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Statutes were theirs and should reflect what they wanted from their meetings. He suggested that, before signing the revision, Member States might wish to consider a further amendment which would allow meetings to be chaired and/or hosted by Associate Members. Following discussion, it was decided that meetings could be hosted, but not chaired, by Associate Members and Member States present then voted unanimously to adopt the proposed amendments. The Secretary was therefore tasked to produce a revised version of the Statutes, incorporating both the amendments regarding annual meetings and hosting of meetings, for signing during the course of the meeting.

9. Adm Maratos, President IHB, stated that Saudi Arabia had, in accordance with Article XX of the IHO Convention, deposited the Instrument of Accession in order to become a full Member State of the Organization and confirmation of its membership of the IHO was expected within the next few days. Rear Admiral Abdul Rahman Mohammed – Al Shehri, Saudi Arabia, apologised for the confusion and delay in its membership application and thanked the IHB for keeping them informed throughout the proceedings. (*Post Meeting Note – Saudi Arabia is now a full member of the IHO*)

10. Commander Mansoor Bin Mohammed Al Kharousi, Oman, advised the meeting that their membership of the NIOHC was still under consideration by the Omani authorities.

11. Adm Maratos advised that there was no information regarding Sudan's membership of the IHO. Captain Mike Barritt, Vice Chair Capacity Building Committee, stated that he would be in Sudan later in March and would make enquiries regarding progress.

#### **Actions:**

##### **NIOHC Secretary**

**6.1 Statutes to be amended to reflect the meeting's decision to permit Associate Members to host NIOHC meetings.**

## **IHB**

### **6.2 IHB to circulate revised Statutes for signing by MS**

## **THE MEETING**

### **Agenda Item 7: Report by the IHB**

12. Admiral Maratos, opened by stating that Romania had recently joined the IHO bringing membership to 77 nations. Saudi Arabia would be the seventy-eighth. He called on Member States who had not yet registered their support for Sierra Leone and Cameroon's applications for membership of the IHO, to do so as soon as possible. A new RHC, the SWAtHC, had also been established in December 2006.

13. He then reported to the Commission on the following main topics: Amendments to the Convention and the forthcoming XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference, SPWG, WEND, CHRIS, Capacity Building, GEBCO, IHO Publications S-44 and S-55, and liaison with other international organisations including NIPPON Foundation, IOC, IALA and in particular IMO who have approved amendments to performance standards for ECDIS based on the recommendations of the IHO. IMO has also approved mandatory carriage requirements for high speed craft, to be in place by July 2008, and Adm Maratos emphasised the need to ensure good ENC coverage by that date. To this end, IHB had issued a Circular Letter (71/2006, with a reminder CL 07/2007) calling for information regarding high speed craft routes and ENC availability. A number of Member States were invited by the Chairman to check their responses with Adm Maratos, IHB President during the course of the meeting.

14. Adm Maratos continued by informing the meeting that the IOC (International Oceanographic Commission) has withdrawn from ABLOS to avoid duplication and additional expense. He went on to thank Dr Dimitri Travin, IOC for his cooperation with the IHO, attributing much of the success to his efforts.

15. Adm Maratos concluded by expressing his hope that Member States would support World Hydrography Day on 21 June 07 and offering IHB support should Member States require assistance.

16. The Chairman invited comments on the IHB report, stating that from a UK view point he welcomed what was being done in respect of S-57. He continued by stressing that it was important that all Member States ensured correct implementation, for the sake of the mariner. There is an appetite for ECDIS; integrated bridge systems are the future; and the commercial sector are claiming a seamless product. The Chairman emphasised the need to ensure an official, seamless ENC service to the mariner and encouraged the IHO and National Hydrographic Services to cooperate on production.

#### **Action:**

#### **ALL MEMBER STATES**

#### **7.1 MS urged to respond to IHO Circular Letter 07-2007 dated 19 Jan 07**

### **Agenda Item 8: Update on tsunami affected areas - assistance received and any still required**

17. Adm Maratos briefed that the agreed disaster plan notified by IHO CL89/05, remained the basis for response to any future disasters. The 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC had identified that in the event of any future disaster there was a need to have a focal point of contact for each coastal state in the NIOHC area. The Chairman proposed, and Member States agreed, that this should be the individual nominated as

the NIOHC participant. The meeting agreed the need for a table top exercise to test procedures. It was decided that the Chairman would send a message to the points of contact during the next 6 months, asking them to test communications with appropriate national authorities (see IHO CL 89/05) and to respond to him within 72 hours.

18. Horst Hecht, Germany, presented a final report on out of area assistance (see Annex C). He explained that any further requests for assistance should be dealt with as part of bilateral arrangements between Member States.

19. Adm Rao, India then gave an update on assistance from inside the region. He explained that progress had been slow. Six harbour surveys had been completed. A request for surveying of areas off the E coast of Sri Lanka had still to be met. India remained ready to provide assistance but pointed out that any requests should be made government to government. Jean Laporte, France also emphasised the importance of keeping embassies informed by processing requests through the usual diplomatic channels

20. Captain Pannarai Chuapibul, Thailand reported that sixteen areas had been surveyed and twenty-two charts produced. They had found very little change in the areas surveyed.

21. Lieutenant Ronny Matatiken, Seychelles thanked India for their continued support and the UK for the donation of two Atlas Deso25 echo sounders. Requests for further surveys would be made through the diplomatic channels.

22. Sri Lanka is still awaiting the replacement of the survey vessel lost during the tsunami. Funding will be finalised shortly. The Chairman requested that Sri Lanka keep him informed of any issues arising. Germany confirmed that equipment had been purchased and supplied to Sri Lanka.

**Actions:**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**8.1 To confirm to Chairman that they have plans in place to respond to any future emergencies in accordance with IHO Circular Letter 89/2005**

**NIOHC Chairman**

**8.2 Within the next 6mths Chair to request confirmation that points of contact in event of emergencies remain able to provide information required by IHO Circular Letter 89/2005 within 72hrs of the request being made**

**Agenda Item 9: National Reports Highlights**

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

- Bangladesh (see Annex C)
- France (see Annex C)
- Germany (see Annex C)
- India (see Annex C)
- Myanmar (see Annex C)
- Pakistan (see Annex C)
- Saudi Arabia (see Annex C)
- Seychelles (see Annex C)
- Sri Lanka (see Annex C)
- Oman (see Annex C)

- Thailand (see Annex C)
- UK (see Annex C)
- US (see Annex C)

24. During the presentation of the National Report Adm Rao reiterated their offer of training in Goa and the Chairman urged Member States to look at the National Reports and make use of the training on offer. Following discussion of the application of the Cat B criteria requiring a Bridge Watch Keeping Certificate as a qualification when selecting attendees, Capt Barritt undertook to discuss this issue with Captain Gorziglia.

25. Adm Rao advised that it is intended to issue a revised Bombay Pilot mid 2007 and requested that any new information is submitted to India.

26. Adm Abdul Rahman Mohd Al-Shehri enquired of IHB whether there was any guidance for newly elected members of the IHO as to a nation's responsibilities; as it would aid their communication with affected organisations. IHB noted that no such guidance existed and undertook to address this issue by producing an information pack, much of which would be drawn from existing IHO publications.

27. Jean Laporte, France pointed out that the results of surveys carried out by third parties should, as a matter of course, be communicated to the responsible national charting authority.

**Action:**

**IHB**

**9.1 To prepare information pack for new IHO Members regarding what is expected of Member States and the role of related organisations**

**Agenda Item 10: Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in North Indian Ocean Region (IHO Special Publication S-55 and questionnaires/updates from NIOHC countries)**

28. Captain Mike Barritt reported progress in populating the S-55 database (see Annex C), and emphasised its importance both as an authoritative source for the UN, IMO and other organizations, but also in supporting bids to CBC. He stressed the vital importance of updating national information, and thanked attendees for the information in their National Reports.

29. France lamented the loss of EEZ information within the database. Adm Maratos explained that some of this information had been a little suspect and it had therefore been decided not to include it in the latest version.

**Actions:**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**10.1 To update S-55 database at least on an annual basis**

**Agenda Item 11: Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings and MSI within NAVAREA VIII area, and the implementation of GMDSS**

30. India is the NAVAREA VIII Co-ordinator and is also responsible for the provision of Met information for METAREA VIII north of the equator. The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden lie within NAVAREA IX, co-ordinated by Pakistan. MSI is promulgated through the INMARSAT Indian

Ocean Region (IOR) satellite. Met information for the region south of the equator is compiled in Mauritius (with the exception of cyclone warnings which are issued by Réunion) and broadcast over the IOR satellite using the French Coast Earth Station at Assaguel in Southern France. The cyclone warnings are also broadcast over the Atlantic Ocean Region (East) satellite.

31. Adm Rao advised that the situation was as reported at the 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC (see Annex C) and there were no problems within the region. Cdr. Hussain Fiaz, Pakistan stated that they had experienced problems in ensuring updates were provided and that it would be extremely useful if Member States could provide a nominated contact. Captain Barritt supported this concern, and confirmed that the NIOHC Technical Visit Team would be addressing this issue during forthcoming visits to Sudan and Yemen.

32. The Chairman requested an update in respect of the setting up of a NAVTEX station in the Andaman Islands at Port Blair, the proposal to establish a station in Sri Lanka, and the request by the Kenyan Meteorological Service for there to be a NAVTEX station in Mombassa. Adm Rao advised that he would investigate and provide an update. Adm Maratos agreed that there was an urgent need to establish additional stations in the area which would be of considerable benefit to shipping in the area. Captain Barritt reported that a GMDSS system had been established in the new MRRC at Mombasa, but that the arrangements for connection with the WWNWS were unclear.

**Action:**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**11.1 To make contact with their country's representative responsible for implementation of GMDSS to confirm effective coverage and communication with NAVAREA coordinator**

**INDIA**

**11.2 To investigate progress on the setting up of a NAVTEX stations in the Andaman Islands (Port Blair), Sri Lanka and Kenya (Mombassa)**

**Agenda Item 12: Report by INT Chart Coordinator (India) – Progress on implementation of the INT Chart Scheme**

33. The INT Chart Coordinator for Area J (India) gave a short verbal presentation on the progress of the INT Chart scheme. The number of INT charts to be produced by country was given as follows:

- Bangladesh 3
- India 54
- France 4
- Oman 5
- Pakistan 3
- Thailand 5
- UK 69

34. Adm Rao stated that, although progress had not been closely monitored, he felt confident that Member States were working to produce charts as quickly as possible. He agreed to produce a status report and requested input from Member States. Jean Laporte thanked India for its coordination work. He requested that as part of the status report, an authoritative INT chart diagram be included that could serve as a reference to cartographers.

35. Capt Barritt acknowledged a reluctance to produce INT charts in areas where coast and seabed were constantly changing. He encouraged Member States to overcome this reluctance and to produce the required charts with appropriate warning notes. It was recognised that this was a particular problem for Bangladesh and the UK offered to provide advice.

36. Captain Sirichai Noeythong, Thailand advised that there were five charts to be added. These were currently awaiting INT numbers from the IHB.

**Actions:**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**12.1 To provide details to India on the progress of their INT Chart production**

**INDIA**

**12.2 To produce a status report regarding INT Chart production in area J**

**UK**

**12.3 To provide advice re assistance to Bangladesh in the production of their INT charts**

**Agenda Item 13: ENC Issues**

**a. Update on identification of key shipping routes and ports within the region**

37. Dr Canham presented an updated assessment of the main shipping Routes and Ports (Annex C). He explained that the top 2000 ports listed had been ranked by tonnage. The Chairman stated that the UK was keen to link key routes and ports. With support and assistance from its partners, it was the UK's intention to cover major routes and ports, with an all vector offering, during June 2007. This aim was endorsed by Adm Maratos and Adm Rao confirmed support.

**Action:**

**UK**

**13a.1 To supply copies to MS of ENC scheme, key routes and main ports diagrams**

**b. ENC scheme and timescale for production**

38. The ENC scheme, based on the INT chart scheme for the region and following WEND Principles, was presented by Dr Canham. Mr Jeff Bryant, UK raised the importance of ensuring a scheme without overlaps, and advised liaison with adjacent RHCs would be necessary.

39. Horst Hecht speaking as Chairman of the WEND Task Group expressed his gratitude at seeing an ENC scheme proposed which was in accord with WEND Principles. He stated that the WEND Task Group would be willing to accept the scheme as proposed for the NIOHC region. Dr Canham agreed that once the overlaps had been agreed the analysis could be passed to the WEND Task Group.

**c. Identification of producer nations**

40. The Chairman encouraged all Member States to continue ENC production and, to make those they had completed, available.

41. Dr Canham advised that the GB produced Sri Lankan charts in the General Usage band are to be moved to the Coastal band used by India.

**d. Assistance with ENC production**

42. The Chairman commented that the best way forward was through cooperation and encouraged Member States requiring assistance with ENC production, to take up offers by France, India, Pakistan and UK.

43. Adm Rao suggested consideration should be given to the inclusion of an ENC module in Category A & B courses. This was supported by the Chairman as a means of raising ENC awareness. Cdr Fiaz, Pakistan also supported the compulsory inclusion of an ENC module in the Category A and B courses. Adm Maratos advised that any changes to the IHO syllabus could take up to a year to achieve but that there was nothing to prevent any Member State offering training, adding such a module to its own courses provided that it did not affect the delivery of the syllabus laid down by the IHO.

**Actions:**

**UK**

**13d.1 UK to provide IHB with draft proposal in respect of ENC awareness training to be included in Cat A & Cat B syllabus**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**13d.2. MS to communicate with their maritime authorities to provide guidance to mariners as to what constitutes an official ENC and carriage compliance as laid down in SOLAS V, WEND and also using the mariners guide provided jointly by IC ENC and PRIMAR-STAVANGAR**

**e. ENC distribution including RENCs**

44. The Chairman stressed the importance of ENC distribution. Horst Hecht encouraged Member States to take advantage of the services offered by RENCs, emphasising the key role which the latter play in ensuring the consistency which is essential to retain IMO support. The sentiments were endorsed by Ingenieur General Jean Laporte, France. The Chairman informed the meeting that the UK had received considerable correspondence from the shipping community, regarding the problems of coverage and consistency, which must be heeded. The customer must be provided with official data for which Hydrographic Offices were prepared to take responsibility and liability.

45. Adm Rao informed the meeting of India's intention to establish a NIOHC sub-RENC within the next 6-9 months and has already signed an agreement with IC-ENC. However, a sub-RENC would make no sense without additional members and he invited all NIOHC members to join.

46. Cdr Nattawut Prateepaphalin, Thailand expressed concern at the broadness of the S-57 standards to which ENC are produced, for example SCAMIN and contour intervals, and suggested a more detailed regional ENC production guideline be considered. The Chairman noted that a regional ENC production guideline could cause problems where boundaries abut. Horst Hecht suggested that in most cases ENC are adopted from paper charts and this is where inconsistencies arise. He reiterated the benefit of getting a RENC involved in assuring a common level of quality and suggested that NIOHC members should consider joining the Indian NIOHC sub-RENC. The Chairman suggested that as part of their training mariners needed to be reminded that an ENC should be interrogated in the same way as a paper chart.

47. The Chairman suggested that there may be merit in a small group of NIOHC members considering creating a regional ENC production guideline for NIOHC in the area, based on the East Asia Hydrographic Commission model. The following lengthy discussions were inconclusive.

**Agenda Item 14: Capacity building: Input to and requests for assistance from IHOCBC**

48. Capt Barritt reminded Member States that the Chairman must submit NIOHC bids to the CBC Chairman by 1 Apr 07, in order that they can be fully assessed before the 5<sup>th</sup> IHOCBC meeting in Riga, Latvia on 5-7 Jun 07.

49. Capt Barritt continued with a short introductory presentation which summarised the CBC process and reviewed current and possible NIOHC bids. He continued by imploring Member States to take this opportunity to articulate their needs and to provide input to the CBC. The meeting then moved on to adopt the NIOHC Capacity Building Management Plan and to use it to define bids to be forwarded to the IHOCBC (Annex C).

50. Capt Barritt explained that funding was available to support the attendance of students at MBES Courses in Norway and Australia during this year. The NIOHC was eligible for at least 2 places and he proposed that the meeting should identify suitable candidates and place them in priority order. Adm Rao lamented that the area would be better served by holding courses in India – no-one had yet taken up India's offer of a Multibeam course made at the last meeting. Capt Barritt advised that funding had already been approved for the courses in Norway and Australia and an additional bid would need to be put together if funding was required for courses in India. In the meantime he advised that NIOHC members bid for courses for which funding was approved. A priority list was developed, taking into account the prospects of the students using the skills subsequently, and details were entered in the plan.

51. Adm Abdul Rahman Mohd Al-Shehri confirmed that Saudi Arabia would host the Technical Workshop on Phase 1 Capacity in Jeddah in November 2007. Dr Canham confirmed UK was willing to provide a lecturer on the importance of nautical information and Ingenieur General Laporte for France agreed to provide a lecturer to cover the 3 phases of hydrographic capability. Both India and Pakistan were content to provide a lecturer on NAVAREA coordination.

52. The discussions then moved on to the potential for survey team operations first raised at the 7<sup>th</sup> NIOHC. Capt Barritt explained that the CBC might provide funding for travel and subsistence but coordination and delivery would rely on the action of the Member States. Capt John Cousins offered US assistance. Capt Barritt advised that if it was intended that work was carried out during 2007 a funding bid needed to be made in this round. A number of surveys needed in the Seychelles were identified as a suitable project. Cdr. Hussain Fiaz, Pakistan agreed to lead, with US and India providing points of contact. Equipment needs would require further discussion by the project team. The Chairman thanked the newly formed team and requested that they report back to the 8<sup>th</sup> NIOHC and provide a guidance document for future projects.

53. Finally, Captain Barritt suggested that the CB Management Plan should also be used to review options for bilateral assistance within NIOHC, especially for training. A number of options for in-region courses were identified, and the Chairman directed that bids to CBC be developed for travel (and possibly subsistence) funding to facilitate such opportunities.

**Actions:**

**PAKISTAN**

**14.1 Pakistan to confirm lead role in Regional Survey Team prototype operation**

**INDIA**

**14.2 India to confirm 8 Category A hydrography and 9 Category B hydrography places available in 2008**

**ALL MEMBER STATES**

**14.3 To report availability of lecturers for in-region MBES Course, and any costs e.g. travel and subsistence**

**NIOHC CHAIRMAN**

**14.4 NIOHC bids to be forwarded to Chairman CBC by 01 Apr 07**

### **Agenda Item 15: SPWG Report and Development of procedure for selecting representatives to Council**

54. Adm Maratos, IHB, gave a progress report on SPWG meetings, including an explanation of the procedures for selecting Members to Council, contained in General Regulations, Article 17. He encouraged Member States to decide on the procedures to be adopted for selection of representatives to fill the two seats allocated to NIOHC.

55. Under the proposed Rules of Procedure, all IHO Member States should have the opportunity to be represented on Council, or to vote for who will represent them. UK stated that it would not put itself forward as a candidate for representative of the NIOHC. Following considerable discussion, Adm Rao expressed the willingness of India to be one of the NIOHC representatives. Despite encouragement by the Chairman no other candidates were forthcoming. The meeting decided that the process should be finalised at the 8<sup>th</sup> NIOHC. The Chairman again pointed out the need for an awareness of the responsibilities of representation in respect of input, resource and time. He also requested that Member States come prepared at the next meeting to have a full and frank discussion on this item.

#### **Action:**

#### **ALL MEMBER STATES**

**15.1 To write to the Chairman, after considering the criteria and consulting with any appropriate MS government organisations, to register interest and be considered for one of two places representing the NIOHC region on the IHO council**

### **Agenda Item 16: World Hydrography Day**

56. Adm Maratos and Member States detailed what had been done to mark World Hydrography Day in 2006 and their plans for 2007. The Chairman welcomed the ENC theme announced in IHO Circular Letter 21/2007 and encouraged Member States to use the occasion to raise hydrography in their governments' awareness.

57. Dr Canham invited nominations for the next Alexander Dalrymple Award, the first having been made to R Adm Steve Ritchie on World Hydrography Day 2006. Nominations to be provided by 31 March 2007

#### **Actions:**

#### **ALL MEMBER STATES**

**16.1 To contact IHB via letter, with ideas and information about their plans to celebrate World Hydrography Day**

#### **IHB**

**16.2 To co-ordinate the receipt of information from NIOHC MS and to promote any activities**

#### **IHB**

**16.3 To issue CL seeking information on national survey ship activity on World Hydrography Day**

### **Agenda Item 17: Any other business**

58. Ingenieur General Laporte gave a presentation on French involvement in the GEF-Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention Project developed by the Governments of South Africa and neighbouring countries (Annex C). Both IHO and IALA have acknowledged this as a high priority capacity building project and will provide

support funding. Ingenieur General Laporte continued by expressing concern that there are no laid down standards for Marine Highways. Capt Barritt advised that the IHB had been involved in Project Steering Committee work for this and other initiatives. The aim, as in any other survey, should be to ensure that all dangers to the mariner were detected through vigorous application of the standards in IHO S-44. The issue is to be raised at the IALA meeting, in Southampton later in March 2007 and Dr Canham assured UK support.

59. A discussion on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) then followed with an explanation provided by Horst Hecht (See Annex C). SDI relates to the core business of a hydrographic office – collecting, evaluating and using data – and will loom larger in IHO future business. It will be important to establish close links between the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI), under the responsibility of hydrographic offices, and the terrestrial SDI already being developed in many countries. He suggested that participation in the MSDI development in the region should become part of the standing agenda for future NIOHC meetings. Adm Maratos stated that technical aspects of MSDI will also be examined by the IHO CHRIS Committee.

60. Dr Dmitri Travin, IOC, then advised the meeting of a GLOSS fellowship program which will be started in 2007 and which will include visits to selected sea level institutions in the GLOSS network. The fellowships will offer qualified candidates from the Indian Ocean countries the opportunity to work at a sea level institution for a period of 1-3 months for additional training on subjects such as sea level observations, sea level data management, quality control and analysis, interpretation, coastal modelling/storm surge modelling, product developments and operation of national sea level networks. These fellowships are intended for individuals with some graduate training, who presently work with sea level observation/sea level science. The activity will run in 2007-2008 and is expected to offer 10-15 fellowship opportunities.

**Action:**

**FRANCE, GERMANY & UK**

**17.1 Presentation to be given by France, Germany and UK to update the 8<sup>th</sup> NIOHC on developments of SDI developments in Europe**

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

**Agenda Item 18: Election of next Chairman and Vice Chairman**

61. Adm Moncrieff called for volunteers to take over the chair of the NIOHC. Adm Rao, India proposed that the Chair should be retained by the UK and in the absence of any volunteers and with the support of Member States present, the UK accepted. It was further agreed that India should be appointed Vice-Chair.

**Agenda Item 19: Next Meeting (Venue and date)**

62. Reminding the meeting of the change to the Statutes which now permitted Associate Members to host, Adm Moncrieff called for volunteers to host the 8<sup>th</sup> NIOHC meeting. Adm Rao, India informed the meeting that in the absence of any other Member State wishing to do so, India would be delighted to host the next meeting, probably in Goa. This offer was accepted by the meeting. In respect of date, the Chairman would liaise with Adm Rao to agree a suitable date.

63. Lieutenant Matatiken, advised the meeting that, subject to approval by their higher authorities, the Seychelles hoped to be able to extend an invitation for the 9<sup>th</sup> NIOHC to meet in the Seychelles. Adm Moncrieff, Chairman thanked the Seychelles and the meeting took note.

**Action:**

**UK, INDIA**

**19.1 To discuss date of next meeting and advise MS**

**CLOSING REMARKS & ACTIONS LIST**

**Agenda Item 20: Closing remarks by the Chairman**

64. Adm Moncrieff, Chairman presented the actions decided during the conference and these were agreed by the meeting (Annex B).

65. The Chairman thanked participants for their contribution to the meeting. He looked forward to the meeting in India and expressed the hope that participants would come to the meeting well briefed and, if necessary, empowered to make decisions in order to ensure informed and worthwhile discussion could take place in a timely manner. He thanked Admiral Maratos for attending and his support throughout the meeting. Finally he thanked Adm Netrapra, Capt Pannarai and their team for all their assistance in making the arrangements for the meeting and providing such an excellent venue.

66. The list of 7th NIOHC Actions is at Annex B.

Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff BA  
North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Chairman  
UK National Hydrographer  
Dated: 27 March 2007  
Our Reference: HA317/006/046-04

**List of Enclosures:**

Annex A: List of Participants to the 7th NIOHC Conference.  
Annex B: List of Actions of the 7th NIOHC Conference.  
Annex C: List of 7th NIOHC Conference Documents

**PARTICIPANTS LIST**  
**7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)**  
**PATTAYA, THAILAND, 27 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH 2007**

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## ACTIONS FROM THE 7th NIOHC

AGENDA NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION BY:	DEADLINE
<b>AGENDA ITEM 6</b>	<b>REVIEW STATUTES OF THE COMMISSION</b>		
	6.1 Statutes to be amended to reflect the meeting's decision to permit Associate Members to host NIOHC meetings	NIOHC Secretary	28 Feb 07
	6.2 IHB to circulate revised Statutes for signing by MS	IHB/MS	15 Mar 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>	<b>REPORT BY THE IHB</b>		
	7.1 MS urged to respond to CL07-2007 dated 19 Jan 07	MS	15 Apr 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b>	<b>UPDATE ON TSUNAMI AFFECTED AREAS – ANY ASSISTANCE STILL REQUIRED</b>		
	8.1 All MS to confirm to Chairman that they have plans in place to respond to any future emergencies in accordance with IHO CL89/2005	MS	31 Mar 07
	8.2 Within the next 6mths Chair to request confirmation that points of contact in event of emergencies remain able to provide information required by IHO CL89/2005 within 72hrs of the request being made	NIOHC Chairman	31 Jul 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 9</b>	<b>NATIONAL REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS</b>		
	9.1 To prepare information pack for new IHO Members regarding what is expected of Member States and the role of related organisations	IHB	31 Jul 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b>	<b>REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING, NAUTICAL CHARTING AND MSI/GMDSS IN THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IHO Special Publication S-55 and inputs and updates from NIOHC countries)</b>		
	10.1 To update S55 database at least on an annual basis	MS	31 Dec 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 11</b>	<b>PROMULGATION OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS WITHIN NAVAREA VIII AREA, MSI IN NAVAREA VIII AREA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GMDSS</b>		
	11.1 MS to make contact with their country's representative responsible for implementation of GMDSS to confirm effective coverage and communication with NAVAREA coordinator	All MS	31 Apr 07
	11.2 To investigate progress on the setting up of a NAVTEX stations in the Andaman Islands (Port Blair), Sri Lanka and Kenya (Mombassa)	India	31 Mar 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 12</b>	<b>REPORT BY INT CHART CO-ORDINATOR – PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INT CHART SCHEME</b>		
	12.1 MS to provide details to India on the progress of their INT Chart production	All MS	31 Mar 07
	12.2 India to produce a status report regarding INT Chart production in area J	India	30 Apr 07
	12.3 UK to provide advice re assistance to Bangladesh in the production of their INT charts	UK	31 Mar 07

<b>AGENDA ITEM 13a</b>	<b>ENC ISSUES</b> <b>a. UPDATE ON KEY ROUTES AND PORTS</b>		
	13a.1. UK to supply copies to MS of ENC scheme, key routes and main ports diagrams	UK	31 Mar 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 13d</b>	<b>ENC ISSUES</b> <b>d. ASSISTANCE WITH ENC PRODUCTION</b>		
	13d.1. UK to provide IHB with draft proposal in respect of ENC awareness training to be included in Cat A & Cat B syllabus	UK	31 Mar 07
	13d.2. MS to communicate with their maritime authorities to provide guidance to mariners as to what constitutes an official ENC and carriage compliance as laid down in SOLAS V, WEND and also using the mariners guide provided jointly by IC ENC and PRIMAR-STAVANGAR	All MS	31 Mar 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 14</b>	<b>CAPACITY BUILDING INPUT TO AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM IHOCBC</b>		
	14.1 Pakistan to confirm lead role in Regional Survey Team prototype operation	Pakistan	16 Mar 07
	14.2 India to confirm 8 Category A hydrography and 9 Category B hydrography places available in 2008	India	16 Mar 07
	14.3 MS to report availability of lecturers for in-region MBES Course, and any costs e.g. travel and subsistence	MS	16 Mar 07
	14.4 NIOHC bids to be forwarded to Chairman CBC	NIOHC Chairman	01 Apr 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 15</b>	<b>SPWG MATTERS, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL</b>		
	15.1 MS to write to the Chairman, after considering the criteria and consulting with any appropriate MS government organisations, to register interest and be considered for one of two places representing the NIOHC region on the IHO council	MS/NIOHC Chairman	01 May 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 16</b>	<b>WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY</b>		
	16.1 MS to contact IHB via letter, with ideas and information about their plans to celebrate World Hydrography Day.	MS	31 Mar 07
	16.2 IHB to co-ordinate the receipt of information from NIOHC MS and to promote any activities.	IHB	31 Mar 07
	16.3 IHB to issue CL seeking information on national survey ship activity on World Hydrography Day.	IHB	31 Mar 07
<b>AGENDA ITEM 17</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
	17.1 Presentation to be given by France, Germany and UK to update the NIOHC on developments on SDI developments in Europe.	France, Germany, UK (lead)	8 <sup>th</sup> NIOHC
<b>AGENDA ITEM 19</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING – VENUE &amp; DATE</b>		
	19.1 UK/India to discuss date of next meeting and advise MS.	India, UK	31 July 07

## Annex C

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

No.	Title	Comment
1	Guidance on role and activities of reps on Council.	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
2	Report on Hydrographic Assistance TSUNAMI - Germany	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
3	Bangladesh - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
4	France - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
5	Germany - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
6	India - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
7	Myanmar - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
8	Pakistan - National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
9	Saudi Arabia – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
10	Seychelles – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
11	Sri Lanka – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
12	Oman – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
13	Thailand – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
14	UK – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
15	US – National Report	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
16	Revision update and use of S-55 - NIOHC	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
17	NAVAREA VIII Report by India (as for 6 <sup>th</sup> NIOHC)	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
18	New World Routes	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
19	Top 2000 ports	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
20	ENC Schema	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
21	NIOHC and the IHO CBC	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
22	Spatial Data Infrastructure	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>
23	Capacity Building - SHOM	Available at <a href="http://www.iho.shom.fr">www.iho.shom.fr</a>