

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah , most Compassionate , most Merciful



(NATIONAL REPORT)

TO
Meeting
NIOHC- Thailand – Pattaya
(27 Feb 2007)

**HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY IN THE
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

“National Report”

Hydrographic Survey:

In a joint effort carried out in cooperation with a UKHO team, a full survey of Al-Jubayl Seaport approaches was completed in two phases: phase I was carried out in 2005 using survey ship 'Echo' and phase II was completed in 2006 using survey ship 'Enterprise'. The surveyed area was mapped to produce Chart # 3719. Our plan for this year includes another joint effort to be undertaken with the Pakistani Navy during their next visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As part of our cooperation program, we are planning a survey of specific areas of importance.

Paper-printed Charts:

Parts of the Red Sea have been surveyed within the Saudi Arabian territorial waters resulting in the compilation and production of 89 charts of various scales. These charts (originally contracted by the Saudi Arabian Ports Authority) need to be updated. The Hydrographic Survey Department (HSD), in coordination with other agencies of concern, is working on a program for carrying out the required update in accordance with approved international standards for the production of charts.

Electronic Charts:

We have not yet started any electronic charting. To start any such work, we would seek help in coordination with international agencies of concern. We are willing to be involved in a joint electronic charting effort whose aim is to maintain the safety of marine navigation and not just a profit-seeking work.

The Maritime Database:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken steps toward the establishment of a maritime data and information center in collaboration with the Faculty of Marine Science at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. The center is being set up to serve researchers and hydrographers. Neighboring Red Sea nations will be contacted to provide whatever information they may have to expand the database. However, we welcome any fruitful cooperation in this connection.

Training:

One naval officer is currently attending training in Plymouth, the UK, as a PhD student in hydrography.

8 naval officers have recently joined the Hydrographic Survey Department (HSD) and need training as follows:

- 1- Four officers are listed to receive training in hydrography (B/CAT).
- 2- Four officers are listed to receive training in cartography and electronic Charted (B/CAT).
- 3- Any other training courses recommended during the NIOHC meeting, if any.

Establishing a National Hydrographic Office:

It was decreed that the GDMS be upgraded to become a General Commission for Survey (GCS) which will have a mixed military and civilian staff and will take over as leading authority in charge of survey works in general. Since hydrography is going to be part of the new organization, and since there are many government agencies active in the field of hydrography, charting and various maritime activities, HSD will take the first step and invite these agencies to come together and contribute ideas on the concept, goals and mission of the proposed National Hydrographic Office. IHB, who is sending a technical team to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a few weeks to come, will also contribute to the formation of the new office by offering advice, through that team, as needed to satisfy the requirements of IHO and other related organizations and also in light of the experience of neighboring and friendly countries who have already been through this experience (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will receive formal acceptance to the membership of the IHO in 2007G).

Multi-Lateral Cooperation:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes cooperation with NIOHC members in the interest of improving the safety of navigation. It is also ready for an exchange of experience and cooperation in the areas of chart production and hydrographic survey.