

MEETING REPORT
9TH NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)
PORT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES (25 - 26 FEB 09)

1. **Opening Formalities**

(a) **Address by Host.** The proceedings were opened by Maj Simon Laurence, Oi/C hydrographic unit, who extended a warm welcome to all participant and expressed his honour at being able to host the 9th NIOHC meeting at Male, Seychelles from 25-26 Feb 09. He wished the participants a positive meeting and expressed hope that this sharing of experience and knowledge amongst the delegates would benefit this region.

(b) **Address by Chairman.** NIOHC chairman Rear Admiral BR Rao thanked Maj Simon Laurence and expressed pleasure at chairing the 9th meeting of NIOHC at Seychelles. He also wished the meeting to have a conclusive debate, on host of issues, which affect the region in terms of Marine Safety vis-a-vis navigation and pollution. He stressed the need to have focus on delivery and engage each other in constructive cooperative engagement towards improving safety of navigation through effective surveys and correct usage of nautical cartography. He also briefed the meeting about the CBC procedures and welcomed Mauritius participation to NIOHC fold.

(c) **Remarks by President IHB.** President IHB, Vice Admiral Maratos explained the importance of the RHC, which had been established to respond to the requirements of SOLAS V Chapter 9 in a better way. He explained the changes taking place within the organisation of IHO, which would enable it to effectively meet the requirement of the 21st century. He thanked the participants for their attendance and extended his gratitude to Seychelles authorities for hosting the 9th NIOHC.

(d) **Address by the Chief Guest.** Mrs Veronique Herminle, Principal Secretary for Natural Resources and Transport, was the chief guest. She spoke on the need of navigational charts, international cooperation and utilisation of technology. She stressed the need for hydrography especially since in Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 island with an EEZ of approximately 1.4 million sq km, the requirement of hydrographic product for safe navigation and pollution prevention becomes paramount. She was also appreciative of the fact that a chart 'Western Approaches to Male Island' was being handed over to Seychelles authorities. She wished fruitful deliberations during the meeting and a happy stay to all delegates.

(e) **Administrative Arrangements.** The meeting was held at Seychelles, Port Authority conference room. Lt Col M Rosette gave a brief outline about the programme and various administrative arrangements. The list of participants of 9th NIOHC meeting is placed at **Annexure A**.

2. The Proceedings

(a) **Adoption of Agenda.** The agenda circulated to members by 9th NIOHC letter was adopted and in the absence RAdm Neil Guy, who was scheduled to give a presentation on Western Marine Electronic Highway, Ingenieur en chef Yves Guillam confirmed that he would be covering the agenda.

(b) **Review of Action List from 8th NIOHC Meeting.** The following action list from 8th NIOHC meeting was reviewed by the Chair with member states requested to confirm the status of actions:-

8 th NIOHC Action Number	Action	Action By	Status
7.1	IHB to complete task of getting MS to sign revised Statutes	IHB/MS	Action in progress
7.2	Invite Mauritius to attend 9 th NIOHC meeting	Chair	Action Completed
7.3	Invite Mauritius to join NIOHC and sign Statutes	Chair/IHB	Action Completed
9.1	MS urged to respond to CL 07/2007 dated 19 Jan 07, and subsequent CLs, including CL 33/2008, on ENC coverage, consistency, etc, to inform IHO position at IMO NAV 54.	MS	Issues about ENC coverage, usage bond, chart catalogue were highlighted
9.2	MS to pursue completion of their country's ratification of the amended IHO Convention.	MS	VADM Maratos agreed to render all help & requested countries to contact there diplomatic mission for same.
9.3	MS to communicate with their voting representative (national maritime authority) at IMO NAV 54 to brief them, using IHO CL 33/2008, to support IHO on the importance of ENC issues.	MS	IHB president covered under action 9.1
10.1	Chair to provide summary of NIOHC disaster response contacts and plans, for review by MS, with minutes of 8 th NIOHC	Chair/MS	Completed
10.2	Within the next 6 months, 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	Partially completed. (Action point for next 10 th NIOHC meeting)
10.3	Agenda 9 th NIOHC to include session (2 hours) on disaster management, experiences, etc	Chair, India, US	Completed, Comprehensive presentation was given.
13.1	To update S-55 database at least on an annual basis.	MS	Partial complete. Action point for 10 th NIOHC.
13.2	S-55 extracts to be collated from National Reports	IHB	Completed.

8th NIOHC Action Number	Action	Action By	Status
13.3	Chair to write to MS on importance of completion and updating of S-55	Chair	Completed. Workshop schedule being planned.
14.1	UK to provide lecturer for CPRNW MSI Workshop in India in November 2008	UK	Action point for 10 th NIOHC.
15.1	MS to provide details to India on the progress of their INT Chart production	All MS	Updated list available as INT Chart Status Matrix.
15.2	India to produce a status report regarding INT Chart production in area J and advise IHB	India	Completed.
15.3	UK to report back to India, as INT Chart Coordinator, on four charts highlighted in presentation.	UK	Completed
16.1	UK to supply copies to MS of ENC scheme, key routes and main ports diagrams	UK	Complete. Provided on IHO website.
17.1	Regional Survey Team prototype operation in Seychelles joint survey to be completed and guidance document for future projects to be provided to 9 th NIOHC.	Pakistan, USA, Seychelles	Action completed. Presentation made. Action point for 10 th NIOHC regarding guidance document.
17.2	MS to respond to imminent IHO CL on IHO Multibeam Course at the National Hydrographic School, Goa	Interested MS to IHB, copy to India	Completed. Course conducted during Nov 08
17.3	MS to maximize the opportunity presented by World Hydrography Day to raise profile of hydrography, and to contact IHB via letter, with ideas and information about their plans to celebrate World Hydrography Day.	MS	Completed.
17.4	IHB to co-ordinate the receipt of information from NIOHC MS and to promote any activities.	IHB	Partially Completed.
17.5	India representative on CBC to take on elements of NIOHC CBC staff officer role	India	Completed, Captain V Badhwar nominated.
17.6	Chair to write to Chair CBC to advise India's role and put in submission to CBC	Chair	Completed
18.1	India and Saudi Arabia to represent NIOHC on Council, when established	India, Saudi Arabia	Completed
18.2	Chair to write to IHB to advise decision re NIOHC Council representation	Chair	Completed
19.1	SDI presentations by UK and France to be posted on IHB website		Completed
23.1	Chair to discuss venue 9 th NIOHC with Seychelles	Chair	Completed
23.2	Chair/Host to discuss date of next meeting and advise MS.	Chair, Host	Completed

3. **NIOHC Statutes.** The member states were requested to follow up with their diplomatic missions /concerned official for outstanding signatures and the point has been retained for the next meeting.

4. **IXth NIOHC Business**

(a) **Report by NIOHC Chairman.** The Chair briefed the members about the conduct of NIOHC meeting the general key areas and stressed the requirement of follow up and close coordination required for execution of various actions. He stressed the need to have more proactive approach towards the pending issues and stated that during the course of agenda he would briefly summarise the actions, in hand. The Chair also emphasised upon the members present the need to actively participate in NIOHC meetings and suggested that views of the member states not present may also be taken prior to finalising bid for funding through Capacity Building Committee.

(b) **Report by IHB.** The IHB President provided a brief report on SPWG, WEND, CHRIS, Capacity Building, GEBCO, IHO Publications besides briefing on Nav 54 and forthcoming agenda for the next EIHC meeting. He also gave an insight into the functioning of 2 new committees and their rules of procedure. The documentation of Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) is available on the IHO website. He urged the producer nations to fully cover the international routes in term of appropriateness of scale, usage band etc. Chart catalogue for the same is available on the IHO website and this issue is likely to be discussed in the next EIHC (Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference). He requested member states to check ENC compatibility issues with paper charts and briefly summarised the issues connected with S-23 working group besides informing the delegates about Italy's hydrographic academy imminent shifting to Genoa. He also gave an insight into the concept of Marine Electronic Highway and the world vision to have such a marine highway spanning across the world for channelising envisaged traffic of the future. He spoke on IHO provision of S-55 as an instrument for termination besides SAR issues regarding Arctic Navareas. He also requested member states to celebrate the World Hydrography Day and give it adequate coverage by bringing it to the notice of appropriate authorities within the government.

(c) **Presentation on National Disaster Plans.** A comprehensive presentation on Disaster Management was given by India, USA and Bangladesh. Indian side briefly outlined the natural disasters, which had been having a periodic onslaught ranging from tsunami, cyclone, earthquake to floods and draughts. These varied factors necessitated evolution of an organisation with redundancy to counter threat / mitigate suffering over a large scale from floods to draught as well as robust organisation to deal with multitude of disasters. The utility of survey ships in opening of the sea lanes for relief to flow through and providing humanitarian aid by effectively reaching out was another aspect of the presentation. The survey ship secondary role of hospital ship was shown through effective slides. A digital model of inundation mapping was the highlight of the presentation and its utility for disaster management was stressed upon. Bangladesh gave a presentation on the disaster preparedness and management more specific to cyclones, which have been periodic in nature. On

an average every year the country has faced the brunt of 1-2 cyclones necessitating a strong organisational framework for disaster management. The presentation evolved good response and there were deliberations at end of the sessions. Clarity on different organisation working together for a common cause of concern also evoked good responses from the delegates. Chair highlighted the use of simulation maps and hydrography which has played a major role in disaster mitigations and requested the delegates to assimilate this technology for future, as an aid to disaster preparedness.

(d) **Highlights of National Reports.** The Chair stressed the need for submission of National Reports in time so that S-55 information can be collated and various facets of National Report, the deficiencies observed could be downloaded by all member states prior to the meeting and meaningful discussion for capacity building can take place. The National Report highlights were given by the country representing with special reference to areas, where assistance was required. Bangladesh gave a brief presentation on the present existing survey capabilities and requested for survey and training assistance. France in it's presentation also gave an insight into the various activities covering the new surveys undertaken, latest technologies used, production of ENC's/other publications and training. India summarised its report highlighting ENC usage bands, effective coverage areas besides the bilateral surveys undertaken in Seychelles, Mauritius and Maldives. Mauritius expressed its concern over the Marine Highway's eastern leg overlapping areas of responsibility besides the survey requirements. Oman summarised the recent changes in its hydrographic organisation. Pakistan offered to carry out hydrographic training and briefed about the hydrographic school which is going in for IHO certification. Thailand has commissioned a new survey vessel and requested for INT chart Nos for 04 charts of the region. The point has been listed as action pending for 10th NIOHC. UK gave details about ENC coverage and informed the MS that they would have full ENC coverage by 2010 virtually 02 years before the deadline of 2012. The buffer period for 02 year shall be utilised for addressing stabilising and harmonisation issues. UK also outlined the new training courses likely to be conducted in Singapore and the bilateral survey done by it for Bangladesh. USA gave an insight into a bilateral Maldives survey done by them besides the check surveys conducted in Sri Lanka and Abu Dhabi. Concept of Fly Away Survey Team was also elaborated by USA.

(e) **Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in North India Ocean Region (IHO Special Publication S-55 and Questionnaire / Update For NIOHC Countries).** This agenda was covered by all the member states during their National Report and therefore it was decided to close the point.

(f) **Promulgation of Radio Nav Warnings.** Indian being the Navarea VIII coordinator gave a brief presentation on the GMDSS alongwith chain for dissemination of information. The issue of regional coordination and cooperation with regard to adjoining Nav-Areas was also discussed. Though the system is working well, there had been time delays in information dissemination. Chair requested Navarea VII coordinator (Pakistan) and India to work more closely towards the Navarea Warning promulgation so that cross Navarea warning promulgation is done in quicktime. The issue of Navarea VIII limits and

mismatch between Area `J' (International Charting Region) was also discussed. The reason for difference in limits results in administrative issues and there was a requirement of realigning them. However, since the RHC does not have a mandate to do so the President IHB has been requested to look into this. The issue of deputing appropriately qualified personnel for CPRNW workshop scheduled to be held in 2009-2010 at National Hydrographic School, Goa was also discussed. The item has been put for action pending for 10th NIOHC.

(g) **Implementation of International Charting Scheme 'J'**. India gave a presentation on international charting scheme 'J'. The status as on date is as shown below:-

COUNTRY	INT CHART NOS	ORIGINALLY ALLOTTED	AS OF NOW	BALANCE	TOTAL CHARTS	REMARKS
OMAN	749,7170,7172,7173,7015	5	3	2	5	7170 – Due for publication Dec – 2007 7015 – Due for Publication Dec - 2008
PAKISTAN	751,7312,7019	3	2	1	3	7312 – Under publication as per Pak e-mail dated Jun 21, 2008
INDIA	54	54	47	7	54	INT 756,755,757,7365,7419,7338,7422 to be produced as per schedule in 2009/10
FRANCE	7004,7114,7115,7118	4	4	0	4	
USA	7112	1	1	0	1	As per e-mail dard May 30, 2008 US One INT chart 7112 has been transferred TO UK
B'DESH	7425,7426,7428,7430	4	3	1(INT7430)	4	INT 7430 is to be removed as per Bangladesh e-mail dard 03 Aug 2007
UK	73	68	73	0	68+5	703,704,707,758,7112 produced more
THAILAND		5	4	1	5	INT Nos to be allotted for all

The Chair requested all member states to take up this issue on priority. India gave a time line of 04 charts in 2009 and 3 in 2010. Thailand requested for INT numbers allocation. The Chair requested Thailand to forward full details about the 04 charts and the point has been retained as action point pending for 10th NIOHC. The chart Nos are to be allocated immediately on receipt of the information. France gave a presentation and requested that permission may be given to them for printing of a chart of Djibouti retaining the same INT No but with increased limits. The Chair asserted that since this proposal does not form part of the agenda the issue needs to be studied in totality and only thereafter approval would be accorded on silent procedures. France has been requested to forward all relevant details to the Chair and on receipt of response from member, shall be collated. In view of the urgency of approval by France it was decided that if the MS do not respond to email within 02 weeks it shall be assumed that MS have no comments to offer.

(h) **Capacity Building.** Capt Vinay Badhwar has been entrusted to takeover as representative of NIOHC and he shall be presenting this regions bid for CBC funds. The MS were apprised by the Chair about the two weeks Multibeam Courses conducted in Feb 08 and Nov 08. The overwhelming response for the course was appreciated. The Multibeam courses were fully funded by the IOC and the CBC. Dr Dimitri Travin gave a brief insight into the course and urged the MS to utilise their trained personnel into their hydrographic units so that they remain current. He also gave an insight into the IOC/IHO GEBCO project status. He also informed the MS the next course circular (CL) commencing 06 Apr 08 has already been given and requested member states to forward there nomination at the earliest and requested MS to collect forms for the same from him. The Chair underlined the importance of retaining this trained talent. MS highlighted there problems retaining this trained pool. The Chair apprised the MS that courses recognised by IHO Cat A and Cat B courses are in much demand and that the personnel trained and certified by IHO see the private enterprises as a better market for themselves. In order to alleviate this, the Chair proposed a normal course of 3/4 months dovetailing basic requirements of executing small survey with part IHO Syllabi without certification would be considered. Additionally he proposed that issue of funding through CBC for such a course and procurement of composite equipment package for doing a small survey under CBC funding could be explored. MS were requested to present their requirement for CBC funding. The net requirement beyond the already committed Cat `A' and Cat `B' courses by India are as follows:-

- (i) ENC course for 10/12 personnel
- (ii) Cartography course for 5/6 personal. Additionally request for cartography course through Nippon foundation was also discussed.
- (iii) Multibeam course for 10 personnel.
- (iv) Dedicated survey effort for charting, which the countries would be discussing bilaterally

The Chair directed that this comprehensive bid along with costing be included as an agenda item to be taken up by Capt V Badhwar (NIOHC rep) during the next CBC meeting. The Director of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service in collaboration with PRIMAR members, gave a presentation on the principles for the development of RENC-to-RENC worldwide network concept for improving the current situation on ENC quality and distribution. The conceptual plan was outlined to Member States for information and consideration. However, legality issues of passing through RENC was also broached during the presentation.

(j) **ISPGW.** India being the current NIOHC representative on ISPGW opened the session and requested views on ISPGW. Adm Maratos informed the delegation that the full documentation is available on IHO website and requested member MS to read and be ready for discussion in the next EIHC. He explained the importance of ISPGW and highlighted that a new definition of hydrography has been agreed to by the committee. The committee considered that for appropriate monitoring and implementation of the strategic plan requirement the

definition of performance indicators is a necessity. The periodical assessment would be discussed on these performance indicators.

(k) **Progress with Ratification of the Protocol of Amendments.** The President IHB briefed the MS regarding protocol of amendment. Statistically he has received ratification from 22 countries against the basic requirement of 62 countries. He requested MS to kindly download there status from IHO website and speed up the process of ratification. The point has been retained as action pending 10th NIOHC. The action list of 9th NIOHC is placed at **Annexure B**.

(l) **EIHC.** The President IHB briefed the member about forthcoming IVth EIHC scheduled at Monaco from 02 to 04 Jun 09. Important topics for the EIHC will be reports from working groups ISPWG, HCIWG and MSDIWG. The status of ENC availability will also be on the agenda.

(m) **International Anti Piracy Naval Forces Hydrographic Support.** France outlined a concept paper to anticipate and review the hydrographic specific requirement of the international naval forces operating in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden in pursuant to United Nation Security Council resolution S/Rs/1851 dated 16 Dec 08. The issue was debated at length. However the Chair was of the opinion that RHC does not have the authority to undertake surveys in other country's territorial waters and therefore a UN mandate would be required for charting the said area. UK agreed to report to the British authorities involved in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (IMO Circular Letter 2946 dated 12 Feb 09).

5. **Other Business**

(a) **Review of 9th NIOHC Actions.** Decisions taken during the first day were reviewed at the beginning of the second day, in accordance with the Statutes. All decisions, as incorporated in the action list at Annex A, were reviewed at the end of the meeting, and deadlines assigned.

(b) **Next Meeting**

(i) **Election of Chair and Vice Chair.** Chair requested volunteers to take over the NIOHC Chairmanship. Barring India's present 1 year tenure, UK had held the role for the last four years and India for the first four. No other states wished to volunteer for the role. Bangladesh agreed to take over as Vice Chair and proposed the name of Capt MI Haque for the same, which was duly approved.

(ii) **Venue and Date.** The 10th NIOHC meeting will be held in 2010. The offer made by Bangladesh at 9th NIOHC to host the 2010 meeting was confirmed. The Chair apprised Bangladesh of the various arrangements and facilities essential for the meeting. He also notified about the assistance which may be provided by NIOHC in this respect. In this regard a formal proposal will be sent to Bangladesh Navy Hydrographic Department in due time for their administrative preparations.

6. **Closing Formalities.** Chair summarised that the meeting had debated and resolved a number of regional issues. He thanked participants for their contribution to the meeting, the Secretary whose task would continue after the meeting, Admiral Maratos and Rear Admiral Moncrieff for their direction and guidance and Seychelles for hosting the meeting and the overwhelming hospitality.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - 9TH NIOHC

Sl. No.	Member State	Name	E-mail
1	Bangladesh	Commander Mohammad Nayeem Golam	dhydro@bangladeshnavy.org
2	France	Ingenieur en Chef Yves Guillam	yves.guillam@shom.fr
3	India	Rear Admiral B.R. Rao , (Chairman)	in的角度@dataone.in
4	India	Commander Ashish Arya	in的角度@dataone.in
5	Mauritius	Mr. AN Oozeer, Permanent Secretary	kappadoo@mail.gov.mu
6	Oman	Lieutenant Commander Yahya Al-Balushi	nhooman@omantel.net.om
7	Pakistan	Commodore Zafar Mansoor Tipu	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk
8	Pakistan	Commander Fiaz Hussain Ti (M)	fhussain_3946@yahoo.com
9	Saudi Arabia	Rear Admiral Abdul Rahman Mohd Al-Shehri (Vice Chairman)	hydro@gdms.gov.sa
10	Saudi Arabia	Commander Abdullah Al-Qahtani	
11	Saudi Arabia	Lieutenant Fahad Al-Oqali	
12	Seychelles	Maj Simon Laurence	
13	Thailand	Rear Admiral Saman Aumchantr	hydrotech@navy.mi.th
14	Thailand	Captain Nattavut Prateepaphalin	nattavut85@yahoo.com
15	UK	Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff	internationalrelations.ukho@ukho.gov.uk
16	UK	Mr. Christopher Throne	
17	USA	Mr. Thomas J Cuff	tom.cuff@fe.navy.mil
18	IHB	Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos	amaratos@ihb.mc
19	IOC	Dr. Travin Dimitri	d.travin@unesco.org
20	Norway	Captain Gerry R Larsson-Fedde	glf@statkart.no
21	Norway	Mr. Peter Scott	peter.scott@ecc.no

9th NIOHC – Actions Pending List

9th NIOHC Action Number	Action	Action By	Deadline	Status
9.0	IHB to complete task of getting MS to sign revised Statutes	IHB/MS	31 Dec 09	
9.1	MS to pursue completion of their country's ratification of the amended IHO Convention.	MS	31 Dec 09	MS requiring support to contact IHB
9.2	Chair to provide review NIOHC disaster response contacts and plans, for review by MS, with minutes of 9 th NIOHC	Chair/MS	15 Oct 09	
9.3	Within the next 6 months, 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	15 Oct 09	Partially completed
9.4	Agenda 10 th NIOHC to include session Western Marine project management, experiences, etc	France		To be included in 10 th NIOHC agenda.
9.5	To update S-55 database on a regular basis(not less then annual).	MS	31 Dec 09	Data to be received by NIOHC secretariat.
9.6	Chair to write to MS on importance of completion and updating of S-55	Chair	31 May 09	
9.7	UK to provide lecturer for CPRNW MSI Workshop in India (Venue & date to be decided)	Chair / UK	30 Jun 09	Chairman to write letter to CBSC confirming date/venue.
9.8	MS to provide details to India on the progress of their INT Chart production. Thailand to be allocated INT Nos for 04 charts.	India /All MS	31 Jul 09	
9.9	India to produce a status report regarding INT Chart production in area J and advise IHB	India	30 Oct 09	
9.10	Response to be forwarded for the France proposal Djibouti INT scheme revision	Chair/MS	31 May 09	France letter N ^o 025 SHOM/DO/NAU /CA/NP dated 30 Mar 09 received. Being processed.

9th NIOHC Action Number	Action	Action By	Deadline	Status
9.11	Confirmation by MS towards appropriate scale, accuracy standards ENC towards INT key shipping routes along with timeline / scale of production	MS	31 Jan 10	
9.12	Regional Survey Team prototype operation for joint survey completed . Guidance document & presentation for future projects to be provided to 10 th NIOHC.	US / Pakistan	31 Dec 09	
9.13	MS to maximize the opportunity presented by World Hydrography Day to raise profile of hydrography, and to contact IHB via letter, with ideas and information about their plans to celebrate World Hydrography Day.	MS		MS to briefly summarise in their National report.
9.14	Specialised courses circular to states not represented in the present NIOHC meeting under CBC funding in collaboration with IOC	Chair	15 Apr 09	Letter to MS not in attendance at NIOHC meeting.
9.15	NIOHC Chair to collate and put in submission to CBC (9 th NIOHC report)	Chair	30 Apr 09	
9.16	CBC to be approached towards policy decision for utilising CBC funds towards equipment funding, sponsoring delegates for attending NIOHC meeting.	Chair / France	30 Apr 09	
9.17	Formation of S-23 working group of NIOHC	Chair / MS	30 May 09	View of MS to be collated for formation of working group.
9.18	Pakistan as INT coordinate for Area I has requested for inclusion of 03 Pak charts in INT Series Area 'I'	India	30 Jun 09	India to comment based on M-11
9.19	Chair to confirm venue of 10 th NIOHC	Chair	30 Jun 09	Bangladesh confirmed in 9 th NIOHC meeting
9.20	Chair/Host to discuss date of next meeting and advise MS.	Chair, Host	30 Sep 09	Dates to be intimated