



**1st ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
9 – 11 February 2014**

IHB Report

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

1. Montenegro became the newest member state of the IHO when the government of Monaco received their instruments of accession to the Convention. IHO membership now stands at 82.
2. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive their instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.
3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By February 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	41 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	36 of 52 required
Georgia	38 of 54 required

4. The following IHO Member States of the RSAHC have not yet responded with their vote:

State	No responses as yet from:
Viet Nam	Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, UAE
Brunei Darussalam	Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE
Georgia	Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE

5. The IHB Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives which may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

Suspended Member States

6. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHB is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

7. By February 2014, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.

8. The Government of Monaco has not yet received notification of a response to the Protocol of Amendments from the following IHO Member States of the RSAHC eligible to be counted: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and UAE.

9. The IHB has produced a one page brief explaining the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention for use in briefing senior government personnel. Copies can be obtained from CL01/2014/Rev.1 or from the IHB at any time via email to: info@iho.int.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region I

10. It is very pleasing to note the current version of S-11 Region I on the IHO website is Edition 2.0.8 dated November 2013. I would encourage member states to continue to support the IR of Iran, as INT coordinator, in providing the IHB with regular updates to S-11.

C-55 Updates

11. The latest updated information in C-55 – *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* – submitted by Member States in the RSAHC region is as follows:

State	C-55 last update
Bahrain	12 October 2006
IR of Iran	28 February 2013
Kuwait	-
Oman	21 March 2011
Pakistan	15 March 2011
Qatar	28 January 2013
Saudi Arabia	30 December 2003
UAE	-

12. All RSAHC region Member States are invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to C-55 on at least an annual basis. Envelopes containing printouts of the current versions of Member States' C-55 composite entries and those of the Year Book were distributed to all Member States at RSAHC 5. The IHB would be grateful for delegates to forward up-dated information to the IHB at info@iho.int or via mail.

IHO GIS Data Base

13. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database will contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Year Book. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting “hotspots”. The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

IHO Publicity

14. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2014 is “Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts”. The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms which will appeal both to the public and to politicians and administrators. It is expected that the

celebration of WHD-2014 in Monaco will be enhanced both by the visit of a French Navy survey ship planned through the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM) and by hosting the GEBCO SCUFN meeting at the IHB during the week. Additionally, it is intended to arrange a supplementary WHD-2014 event during the FIG International Congress-2014 which will be held from 16 to 21 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight the IHO activities. This event will be conducted in consultation with the Hydrographer of Malaysia and the President of the FIG.

15. Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2014 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website.

16. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. EIHC 5 will take place from 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (Please see CCL 01). Planning and preparations are progressing, Member States should have received a number of Conference Circular Letters detailing various initial administrative matters. Further documents will be published over the coming months. The parallel Industry Exhibition is nearly full with only a few places still available. Member States and Observers (Please see CCL06 and CCL07) are invited to attend the EIHC5 and actively participate in its activities.

17. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their regions. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the RSAHC region is Mr Keith Brown (Oman).

18. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (jan.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

19. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme remains limited and the IHO and the RHCs will continue the need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfil their requirements. In many RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits, as is the case in the RSAHC. This has taken the form of industry representatives attending some or all parts of RHC meetings as observers, and included participation and the provision of equipment and instructor in the technical workshops and training, both as part of an RHC meeting and in separate RHC training events. The IHB is keen to continue this positive and mutually beneficial approach in progressing the Capacity Building Programme.

Sustainability of IHO Work Programme

20. The IHB notes increasing difficulties in progressing some important tasks of the IHO Work Programme due to insufficient participation in the relevant IHO subordinate bodies. The IHB monitors the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the XVIIIth IHC about ensuring the appropriate technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

21. The IHB has initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to facilitate resource planning, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and late autumn periods. In that perspective the IHB would welcome the views of RSAHC on identifying and harmonizing potential offers of venues within the Commission.

Action Requested of RSAHC Member States

22. RSAHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Report** in-country progress on voting on New Member States and the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through IR of Iran as coordinator for INT Region I;
- **Provide** updates to C-55 as appropriate; and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.