

**PRO 18 – PROVISION OF REGIONAL STAFF OFFICERS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORT**

Submitted by: United Kingdom

**PROPOSAL**

**The Conference is requested to ask the CBC, in consultation with RHCs, to consider the part-time allocation of personnel to act as Regional Staff Officers to assist those chairmen of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) who have limited human resources with which to sustain the capacity building effort in their regions. It is suggested that the priorities for provision of such a post should be EAHC, MACHC, NIOHC, SAIHC and SWPHC.**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

1. The IHO Capacity Building Fund is now in receipt of generous donations from Member States, and the most serious constraint on activity in Work Programme 2 is availability of human resources. Whilst Member States have also been generous in supporting the IHO's Capacity Building programme with personnel with the appropriate skills, the demands are increasing as the revived strategy of the organization builds up momentum and more and more proposals are approved by the Capacity Building Committee (CBC).
2. Two particularly demanding aspects of capacity building effort are the planning and preparation of missions and training events, and the follow up to these activities. Much of the pressure falls on the RHC Chairmen. In many of the RHCs where the demands for capacity building assistance are high, the Chairmen are drawn from small Hydrographic Offices with few staff. The IHB Secretariat has limited capacity with which to support them.
3. During 2003-07, on completion of the initial stages of the project to update S-55, and in consistency with his role of Vice Chairman IHOCBC, the UK has made Captain M K Barritt RN available to the IHO on a part-time basis to support the capacity building programme. He has been able to take a substantial planning and follow up role in several major capacity building initiatives. This model is the basis of this proposal to the International Hydrographic Conference.
4. Capacity building efforts are likely to be concentrated in the EAHC, MACHC, NIOHC, SAIHC and SWPHC regions, and it is recommended that the priority should be to provide Regional Staff Officers for them. Whilst desirable for liaison with the RHC Chairmen, it is not essential for a Regional Staff Officer to be based within a region. E-mail communication enables most planning and discussion to be conducted in a timely, cost-effective and proficient way.
5. The IMO has Regional Advisers in several of the regions listed at paragraph 4, and their co-operation has facilitated a number of recent IHO technical visit programmes. IHO Regional Staff Officers could work closely with their permanent IMO counter-parts, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two organizations.
6. It would be desirable for personnel to be made available to the IHO for this role at nil cost. However, as the CBC Fund grows, consideration could be given to funding a part-time occupant, perhaps to take forward a specific activity or project. This employment would provide an excellent career development opportunity.