



South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

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SWPHC LETTER 04a/2007

Dear Maritime Colleagues,

INVITATION TO 8th SWPHC MEETING - TAHITI 18 - 20 SEPT 07

You or your representatives are cordially invited to participate in the next meeting of the IHO's South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission to be held in Papeete in September.

Pacific hydrography and regional capacity building was deliberated at the April PacMA Meeting held in Samoa. The meeting of regional Ministers of Transport that followed then agreed that:

Ministers supported the sharing of hydrographic and surveying data and information and

Ministers endorsed the investigation of the benefits of participation of States in the SWPHC where their capacity building needs can be addressed by the IHO.

I believe an important outcome of discussions with the PacMA representatives was the need to better align Pacific hydrographic surveying and charting with the activities of regional maritime administrators. It seems that resources such as vessels and equipment may be available in some countries for limited hydrographic purposes. Training opportunities are available but few maritime administrations know about them. Surveys and charts are undertaken by many different aid, science, defence and tourist agencies. Often the information gathered is not forwarded on to a Hydrographic Authority to contribute towards safer navigation. Value was seen in the inclusion of local Hydrographers in National Maritime Planning Councils.

The 8th SWPHC Meeting will be the first occasion since PacMA when these issues will be addressed. It is hoped that this will be the start of a long and beneficial, reciprocal relationship that will lead to a close alignment between regional Hydrographers and the Maritime Administrators they serve.

The Heads of Delegations for the countries that are IHO Member States are the National Hydrographers. Representatives from other countries that are not members of the IHO and NGOs such as SOPAC and SPC also attend when they are able to. We normally reach agreement by the consensus of all present. On rare occasions a formal vote is necessary. Under our Statutes only full Member States of the IHO can vote.

France is hosting the meeting and are well advanced on the arrangements. The programme of events is:

18 Sept	Icebreaker or cocktails in the evening
19 Sept	Conference sessions (and hosted dinner)
20 Sept	Conference sessions (and informal dinner)

Attached is a draft Agenda (Annex B). It does not particularly reflect the inclusion of all of the issues arising from PacMA at the moment. Can you also advise any additions or changes you would like by 31 July.

The Meeting will be held in:

Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti
Lafayette Beach
PK BP 14170 98170 Arue
Polynésie Française
www.radisson.com/aruefrp

Accommodation can be arranged at the Radisson Plaza. You will need to make your own bookings through:

Mrs Mélanie HUILLET - Département banquets et conférences -
Reservation Code : SWPHC8
- Email : banquetsmanager@radisson-tahiti.pf
- Phone: + 689 488 805 | Fax + 689 488 893 |

The room rates are:

Currency : xpf (franc pacifique), : 1 euro = 120 xpf
- Standard Room without breakfast = 15270 xpf or 127.25 euros
- Standard Room breakfast included = 17474 xpf or 145.62 euros

These are special discounted rates arranged for the meeting and can only be arranged through Mrs Huillet. Please note that the traffic is very heavy in Papeete. Therefore it is highly recommended to book in Radisson for the duration of the conference. You should make the reservations soon to be sure of getting a room.

I do need a firm indication of the countries that will attend and the names of their representatives. Please complete the form in Appendix A and return it by 14 July to the following e-mail addresses. I appreciate that this is short notice.

Mrs Teresa Kinzett tkinzet@linz.govt.nz cc to jspittal@linz.govt.nz
and

Mrs Guylaine Haral guylaine.haral@shom.fr c to yves.guillam@shom.fr

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in Tahiti.

Yours faithfully

John A Spittal

Chair

South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

National Topographer/Hydrographer

New Zealand.

Draft 8th SWPHC Conference Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
(*Chair*)
2. Confirmation of Agenda
(*Chair*)
- 2a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair and date and place of next meeting
(*Chair*)
3. Review of Action Items from the 7th SWPHC Conference (Wellington - November 2005)
(*All Members*)
4. Exchange of information through National Reports
(*All Members*)
5. Reports from other regional agencies and observers
(*IHB, SOPAC, SPC, etc*)
6. Reports on the Technical Visit to PacMA and the Ministers of Transport Meeting, Samoa.
(*Chair, IHB, Samoa.*)
8. Reports on CBC Meetings.
(*Australia.*)
9. Reports on XVII IHO Conference, May 2007.
(*Australia, France, NZ, PNG, Tonga, UK, USA.*)
10. Review status of the INT Chart Scheme for Area L
(*All Members, IHB*)
11. Regional co-operation in surveying and chart production
(*All Members*)
12. IHO Special Publication N° 55 (Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide)
(*IHB and All Members*)

13. Progress with Production and Distribution of ENC's
(All Members/UK)
14. Other Business
(All)
15. Summary of Resolutions, Decisions, Recommendations and Actions
(Chair)
16. Date and Venue of next conference
17. Closing Remarks