

## High Level Technical Visit to the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 23-24 November

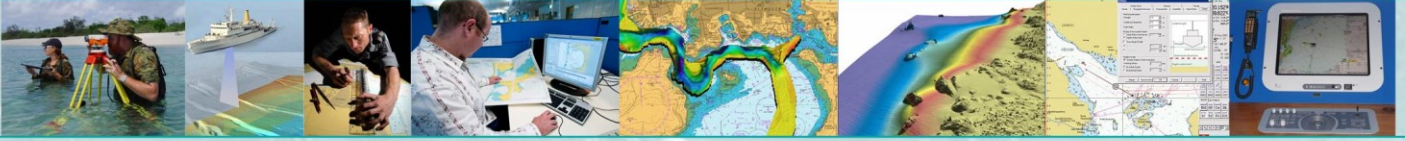
<b>Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023</b>	
<b>Contribution to the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP) 2023</b>	
Task 3.3.9	Plan, administer and implement Capacity Building activities, including: Technical and advisory visits
CBWP2023 – A-12	High Level Technical Visit to the Dominican Republic (from 2021 A-06 and 2022 A-13)

Following the planned IHO CBWP 2023 High Level Technical Visit to the Dominican Republic, and the invitation of the *Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Armada*, the IHO paid a High Level Technical Visit to the Dominican Republic on 23 and 24 November. The role of Hydrography in the sustainable development of the oceans and the new challenges for the IHO and Hydrographic Offices in the United Nations Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the importance of Hydrographic Services at national, regional and international levels, and their role in the sustainable development of national economies, with reference to the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Dominican Republic were discussed. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi, accompanied by Ms Lucy Fieldhouse, Vice Chair of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC).



**Some articles published in the days before the HLTV**

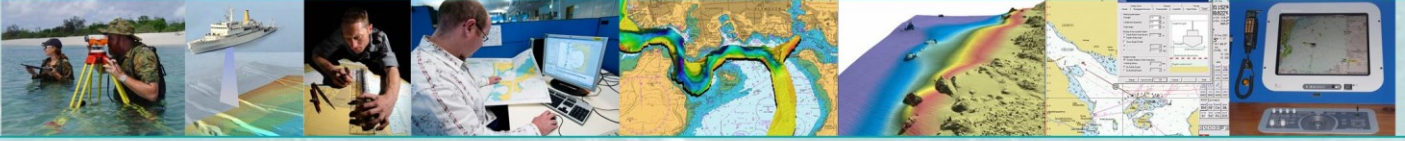
This was the first high-level visit conducted by a member of the IHO Secretariat Directing Committee, and it was preceded by a strong media campaign in the national media and via social media to highlight its importance and uniqueness. The visit enabled the IHO delegation to learn more about the status of hydrography within the country, as well as to highlight the benefits of hydrography on sustainable development for a country whose economy is so closely linked to the Ocean.



*Visits to the Commander General of the Armada, Minister of Defense, President of Senate*

During the visit, the IHO delegation met with the highest military, administrative, maritime, legislative and executive officials of the Dominican Republic, including the Commander General of the Armada Vice Admiral Agustín Alberto Morillo Rodríguez, the Minister of Defence Lieutenant General Carlos Luciano Díaz Morfa, the Minister of the Presidency of the Republic Mr José Ignacio Paliza, the Executive Director of the Dominican Port Authority Mr Jean Luis Rodríguez, the President of the Senate of the Republic Hon. Ricardo de los Santos and the President of the Chamber of Deputies Hon. Alfredo Pacheco, together with the Senators and Deputies Chairmen of the Senate and Chamber Committees concerned with sea-related issues, and finally the Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic Mr Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona as the highest State Official. His Excellency Stefano Queirolo Palmas, Ambassador of Italy to the Dominican Republic, also participated in some meetings, at the invitation of the Dominican authorities. The visit concluded with an interview with Director Sinapi by radio station Z-101, and a lecture by Director Sinapi to the officers of the Armada and representatives of the Dominican Government.

All the interlocutors recognised the importance of hydrography as a foundational tool to guarantee the safety of navigation and the sustainable development of the country in a period of strong maritime expansion that sees the Dominican Republic committed to becoming the first tourist and commercial hub in the Caribbean. Furthermore, it was fully recognized that the consolidation and growth of the country's hydrographic capabilities cannot disregard urgent investments in training and equipment, as well as the full participation of its national Hydrographic Office in IHO activities and programmes at the international and regional levels, the latter through the Meso-American and Caribbean Regional Hydrographic Commission (MACHC).



*Meeting with the Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic Mr Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona*

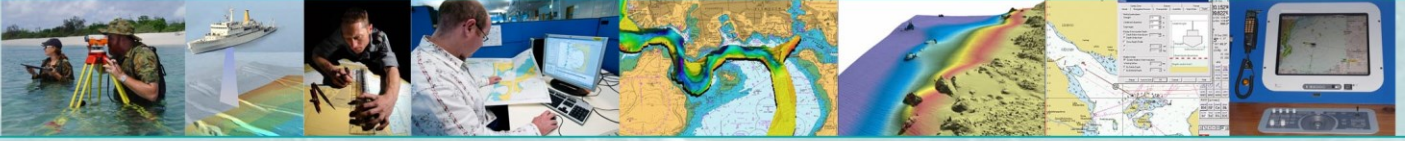
At the end of the individual meetings with the above-mentioned authorities, the commitment of the national Hydrographic Service at Ministry of Defence level was confirmed, as well as the full willingness to financially support the development of the country's hydrographic capabilities, to approve new legislative instruments to consolidate the role of the Hydrographic Office at a national level, and finally - on the part of the Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic - to urgently initiate a plan to strengthen the equipment necessary to carry out hydrographic surveys through new funding.



*Interview with radio station Z-101*

During the Dominican radio Z-101 interview

(cfr. [https://youtu.be/I9zXYOTVQs4?si=KV4MT\\_gx2dejiT4P](https://youtu.be/I9zXYOTVQs4?si=KV4MT_gx2dejiT4P)), Director Sinapi detailed the importance and the benefits for the Dominican Republic to be one of the 99 IHO Member States, and the role and the duties of a Hydrographic Office in ensuring safety of navigation. Referring to the Dominican Republic's extended Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ), over which it has the full right to exploit potential resources on and in the seabed, Director Sinapi highlighted the importance of hydrography in supporting economic growth to the audience



which included high level hydrographic personnel serving in the Hydrographic Office, many of whom were certified by institutions that are recognized hydrographic and cartographic courses.



*Conference to the Armada officers and Dominican Government representatives*

Finally, Director Sinapi provided a lecture entitled “HYDROGRAPHY: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS” to the officers of the Armada and representatives of the Government of the Dominican Republic. That was a unique moment to illustrate the strategic objectives and future challenges of the IHO and their impact at international, regional and national levels, as well as answering numerous questions regarding Hydrography and its positive impact on the sustainable development of the country and the protection of the marine environment.



The conference was followed by local press coverage, including “*La Republica*”, one of the country’s most widely read periodicals, which summarised the results and value of the Visit, reporting that the IHO Director recalled that the Hydrographic Offices are the main support for sustainable development of the countries, considering the direct relationship that exists between the safety of navigation and the distribution of trade relations with the outside world. Furthermore, it is essential for the States to allocate economic funds to the investment of hydrographic surveys, through a strategy focused on consolidating human capital: this will have a positive impact on all productive activities related to the sea and maritime services that constitute, in an island country like the Dominican Republic, the sustainable development of the Country.

*“La Republica” - Article on the Conference held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Naval Base of the Armada of the Dominican Republic*