

## **High Level Capacity Building Visit to Seychelles Mahé Island, 9-12 May**

IHO Director Mustafa Iptes paid a high level Capacity Building visit to Mahé Island, Seychelles from 9 to 12 May to brief senior governmental officials on the role of the IHO and the significance of national hydrographic programmes, particularly for those countries with a significant dependence of maritime activities.

In the first part of his programme, Director Iptes visited the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA) and called on Captain Joachim Valmont, Director General of SMSA. Director Iptes also visited the Headquarters of the Seychelles Coast Guard and had a meeting with Lt. Colonel Leslie Benoit, Acting Commander of the Coast Guard.

In the second part of the programme, Director Iptes visited the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine where he met Mr Garry Albert, Principle Secretary of the Ministry. He also provided an overview briefing to the Seychelles National Hydrographic Committee covering the role and activities of the IHO and the importance of hydrography in the context of the “Blue Economy”.



*Director Iptes and the National Hydrographic Committee of Seychelles.*

In the third part of his programme, Director Iptes called on HE Vincent Meriton, Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles at the State House in Victoria where he presented the activities of the IHO and underlined the importance of hydrography and hydrographic services to any coastal State and discussed the benefits of becoming a Member State of the IHO. Director Iptes also had a meeting on the role of hydrography on underpinning the blue economy with Mr Philippe Michaud and Mr Raymond F. Chang Tave who are Special Advisers at the Blue Economy Department of the Vice President’s Office.



*Director Iptes exchanges gifts with HE Vincent Meriton, Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles.*

Director Iptes was informed that Seychelles, as a maritime State in the Indian Ocean region, has a positive desire to join the IHO in the near future and is actively considering becoming a member of the IHO.