

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC9
Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017**

ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

RSAHC report to IRCC9

1. Chair

Chair:	Cdre Muhammad Arshad	Pakistan	22 February 2017 till to date
	Dr Colonel Adel Al Shamsi	UAE	March 2013 - May 2016
	Commander Thani Harith	Oman	until March 2013

Vice-Chair:	Mr Khojatesh Ali Reza	IR of Iran	22 February 2017 till to date
	Mr Ahmed Parihzi	IR of Iran	March 2013 – February 2016
	Mr Vladan Jankovic	Qatar	until March 2013

2. Membership

Members: Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Associate member(s): France, Iraq, United Kingdom, United States of America

Observers: Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Middle East Navigation Service (MENAS). International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services LLC (AMNAS)

3. Meetings:

Following RSAHC meetings have taken place:

5 th Meeting	Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	4-6 March 2013
1 st Extraordinary Meeting	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	9-11 February 2014
6 th Meeting	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	9-11 February 2015
7 th Meeting	Muscat, Oman	20-22 February 2017

Next meeting: 8th meeting will take place tentatively in February 2019 in BAHRAIN or ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (Place to be finalized in consultation with concerned government)

4. Current RSAHC Working Groups:

- a) RSA INT Chart Coordination working Group RSAICCWG, Coordinator I R Iran
Last meeting was held at Muscat, Oman during 7th RSAHC meeting on 21 February 2017

5. Status of IRCC actions relevant for the RSAHC:

Action list of IRCC8 has been reviewed, and following general action points have been noted:

- a. IRCC8-07B, Worldwide Navigational Warning Service SC (WWNWS-SC Chair) Presentation.
- b. IRCC8-07C, Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC Chair) Presentation.
- c. IRCC8-07D, WEND Working Group (WENDWG Chair).
- d. IRCC8-07E, MSDI Working Group (MSDIWG Chair) Presentation.
- e. IRCC8-07H1, FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC Chair).

6. Agenda Items:

Important agenda points under discussion during 7th RSAHC meeting are as under:

- a. Presentation of National Reports: Hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, nautical publications and information status
- b. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (C-55)
- c. INT chart scheme for Region I and NAVAREA IX self-assessment: Progress made since last meeting; actual Charting Status; ENC production status; new requirements and modifications proposed to the scheme.
- d. Progress on the implementation of ENC coverage and other issues.
- e. WEND WG issues
- f. Developments of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region
- g. Procedures in response to Marine Disasters
- h. Revision of RSAHC Statutes to facilitate election of chair / vice-chair and nominations of IHO council member states.
- i. Capacity building plan for year 2017 – 2019 submitted to IRCC.

7. RSAHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

RSAHC enjoys strong relationship with Industry and healthy participation by industry in RSAHC meeting is much appreciated

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed :

- a. State level organizational hurdles in data sharing.
- b. Communication problems with some member states.
- c. Limited resources and lack of trained manpower.
- d. Lack of national structures to promote national coordinated effort

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

RSAHC MS participated enthusiastically in 7th RSAHC meeting. National reports highlighted an encouraging picture with regards to hydrographic and surveying status, which is increasing at a good rate. Growth in national hydrographic infrastructure including survey vessels and training institutes in the region is a matter of satisfaction.

In view there is a requirement to coordinate and pool the regional resources to contribute in improving hydrographic / charting status and capacity building through conducting various courses through own resources. In this regard a regional capacity building working group has been proposed and will be established subject to consent from MS.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to Note this report and continue the capacity building support for RSAHC

Commodore Muhammad Arshad
RSAHC Chair