

**22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE  
IHO-CBSC22  
Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador, 5-7 June 2024**

**Paper for the Consideration by CBSC22**

**RSAHC Report**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	RSAHC CB Coordinator
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at RSAHC.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	RSAHC CB Plan 2024-2026
<b>Related Projects:</b>	

## 1. Introduction / Background

The Persian Gulf is one of the most strategic waterways in the world due to its importance in global oil transportation. This region produces nearly one third of the world's oil, and holds over half of the world's crude oil reserves, as well as more than 25% of world's natural gas reserves, which is why the Persian Gulf is known as the World Oil Reservoir. The waters in the Persian Gulf are comparatively shallow, with the average of 50 meters, and deep-draught tankers may have to navigate for a considerable distance with little water beneath their keels. For these reasons, it is crucial that parties to the SOLAS Convention undertake hydrographic surveys as and when required that they arrange for the compilation and publication of hydrographic data.

During the ROPME-IHO Workshop concerning the hydrographic activities of the ROPME and Red Sea regions held in Kuwait on 24-27 October 1999, the idea of forming a Regional Hydrographic Commission was raised. The ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) was subsequently established in Tehran, on 7-10 October 2000 at the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of the I.R. of Iran.

The RSAHC Region comprises of 12 Coastal States, nine of which are the Member States: Bahrain, I.R. of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and there are Associate Members (France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America). Moreover, there are a number of Observers, such as Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), and the Middle East Navigation Service (MENAS), International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA), Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services (AMNAS).

At present, the Chair of the RSAHC is Mr. Saud Hamoud AlRuways (Saudi Arabia)

## 2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

No.	Coastal State/Territory	NHC or NHCC	CB Phase 1	CB Phase 2	CB Phase 3	Last TV
1	Bahrain	-1	4	4	4	2008
2	Iran	2	4	4	4	2007
3	Iraq	-1	1	1	3	

4	Kuwait	-1	1	2	3	
5	Oman	2	4	4	4	2007
6	Pakistan	2	4	4	4	N/R
7	Qatar	-1	1	4	3	2007
8	Saudi Arabia	1	4	4	4	2007
9	United Arab Emirates	1	1	2	3	2013

### 3. Activities completed since CBSC21

- Five participants from Oman, one participant from I.R. of Iran and one participant from Saudi Arabia took part in MSI Course in October 2023 in Oman.
- Category 'B' Hydrographic Survey program, sponsored by Republic of Korea, 17 June to 1 November 2024 for which Mr. Ghasem Dalir from I.R. of Iran has been accepted from RSAHC region.
- Conducting two courses on 'Hydrographic Survey' in national level for Iranian experts in 2023, for which Mr. Seyed Mojtaba Zarei was invited as the instructor. It is noteworthy that Mr. Zarei had attended the (Category 'B' Hydrographic Survey Program-in 2022), sponsored by the Republic of Korea.

### 4. Activities planned for 2024

- Technical Visit to I.R. of Iran, which is planned to be executed in the second half of 2024.
- High Level Technical Visit to Iraq, which is planned to be executed in 2024.
- MSI Course which is planned to be conducted jointly by NIOHC/RSAHC Regions.
- Raising awareness workshop on S-100/S-101 (from 2021 P-11 and 2022 P-33) which is planned to be conducted jointly by NIOHC/RSAHC Regions.
- Concerning PRIMAR's offer on availability of its Training Portal for RENC nations, I.R. of Iran has planned to provide a list of Iranian participants to best use of this kind offer.

### 5. Challenges faced in the region

As you are well aware, our region is the one where political issues leave a direct impact on the outcome of RSAHC activities and decisions.

In this region, usually some Member States are active in CB programs, and a few of them do not participate actively in any programs at all, while some others prefer to work with adjacent regions (some Member States of RSAHC are members of NIOHC as well).

For this reason, it is almost impossible to have integrated and up-to-date information of true capacity-building needs from all RSAHC Member States in our region.

Now, under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia as the RSAHC Chair, we hope to achieve better cooperation among all the regional Member States, especially for CB training activities.

### 6. Achievements and lessons learned

A number of Member States have announced their training needs for the next three years through the CB Coordinator for this region, all Member States of RSAHC could be trained at various levels, in order to ensure a much-needed capability on hydrography and nautical

cartography, promote familiarity with the methods of conducting hydrographic surveys, and improve safety of navigation through enhanced navigational products. Therefore, in most cases, we could ignore our political differences, and consider safety of navigation in our regional waters as the region's first priority.

In line with the efforts of IHO to economize costs for the CBSC programs, the RSAHC has negotiated and planned a number of activities and trainings, to be conducted jointly with the NIOHC as the adjacent region.

It is hoped that the planned activities, as mentioned in the RSAHC 3-Year Work Plan for CBSC (2024-26), will be conducted successfully with good results.

## **7. Conclusions:**

We hope that under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, we can encourage the followings:

Involvement of all Member States in the RSAHC region, and better achievement in CB programs, because it is necessary to have suitable and effective means of communication among all Member States.

Moreover, since the IHO Secretariat strongly supports the joint CB submissions in the favour of promoted cooperation between the neighbour RHCs and cost-effective use of the limited CB funds, we are also keen on having joint CB programs for at least the next 3 years between RSAHC and NIOHC.

## **8. Actions required of CBSC:**

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note this update of RSAHC CB 3-Year Work Plan, and
- b. take any actions considered appropriate.

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Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)