



REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Report to IRCC9

1. Chair

Chair: Commander Ahmed Naguib HAFEZ (Egypt)

Vice-Chair: Rear Admiral Vinay BADHWAR (India)

2. Membership

Members: Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and United Kingdom.

Associate Members: Australia, France, Oman, Mauritius, Seychelles and USA.

Observer: Malaysia, Sudan and Russian federation.

3. Conferences

No conference has yet been held since IRCC8 was organized in May 2016

Last Conference: 16th NIOHC, 14-16 March 2016, Chittagong, Bangladesh

Next Conference: 17th NIOHC, 17-20 July 2017, Cairo, Egypt

4. Current NIOHC Working Groups

a. **North Indian Ocean ICCWG (NICCWG).** Coordination of INT charting and ENC coverage within the NIOHC region are ongoing.

b. **Capacity Building.** Capacity building activities since IRCC8 are appended below:

ENC QA training course held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 January to 03 February 2017.

MSI training course held in Fish Hoek Republic of South Africa 05 to 07 September 2017.

5. Status of IRCC Actions (Relevant for the NIOHC)

Due to the fact that no conference has yet been held since IRCC8 was organized in May 2016 and that the next NIOHC will be held next month July 2017, some of the agenda items are either ongoing or yet to be addressed during the next NIOHC meeting.

No	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
4	present updates to the IHO WP for those that have not done so (5)	RHC Chairs	1 Jul 2016	Done
6	encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WWNWS-SC meetings (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	
7	raise awareness of the impact of e-navigation on the provision of MSI in the respective regions and to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Yet to be addressed
8	encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator (7b)	RHC Chairs	RHC Chairs	Yet to be addressed
9	encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA and Capacity Building Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses (7b)	RHC Chairs	RHC Chairs	
13	work to reduce overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approve ENC schemes (7d)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Ongoing
21	invite Member States to provide following information in the National Reports to RHC meetings: the status of MSDI; plans for involvement in MSDI; and challenges facing the HO (7e)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Ongoing
30	invite Member States to provide scanned version of any of the missing sheets, that that they may have in their archives, to the IHB for inclusion in the online digital archive (7i)	RHC Chair	31 Aug 2016	Ongoing
31	in coordination with Member States, to be attentive to opportunities to raise awareness on the role of hydrography and the importance of improving mankind's knowledge of the seas and oceans in support of the sustainable development goals, disaster risk reduction and the integrity of the	RHC Chair	Permanent	Yet to be addressed
32	invite Member States to send updated information to the Secretariat with respect to the IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 on an annual basis (10)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Ongoing
37	send to the IHB a copy of their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission (12)	RHC Chair	23 Jan 2017	Done

6. Agenda Items of 17th NIOHC Conference

The North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission will not meet until after the IRCC9 meeting in Suriname. Next meeting will be held in Cairo, Egypt from the 17th to the 20th of July 2017.

The full agenda items will be placed on the NIOHC page on the IHO website. Some important agenda items that will be discussed are appended below:

-IHO/IHB Matters. This will include IHB report, NIOHC report to IRCC9, IRCC9 report, WEND-WG report, HSSC9 report, status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting worldwide C-55 and marine spatial data infrastructure. These topics will be beneficial in updating all MS on the wider activities of the IHO and encouraging participation of the MSs on different WGs of IHO.

-Towards Data Centricity / e-Navigation

It was agreed by member states during the 15TH NIOHC meeting to add this topic as a standing agenda item for the NIOHC.

An introduction of the concept and an encouragement of MS to look at data as an asset and not just a means to produce a product.

-Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry.

-Maximizing Hydrographic Data

7. NIOHC Cooperation with other Organizations

International organizations (IMO, GEBCO, IALA and PERSGA) and industry participants (CARIS, Kongsberg Maritime, Jeppesen, PRIMAR, IIC Technologies, SevenCs, Fugro LADS Corporation) are invited to attend the 17th NIOHC meeting in Cairo 17 to 20 July 2017.

8. Conclusion

The enthusiastic participation by all the distinguished guests during the past conferences was very encouraging. A continues participation for all member states during the future meetings would ensure for the NIOHC to be an effective platform for cooperation and coordination of hydrographic activities, capacity building, maritime safety, E-Navigation, production of nautical chart, technical assistance and training support.

9. Achievements and Lessons Learned

During the 16th NIOHC conference it was realized that ICCWG meeting needs a full day for discussion. As a result, the coming 17th NIOHC was planned to be 4 days instead of 3 days(from the 17th to the 20th of July) to satisfy the INT Chart production increase in both coverage and currency.

A lot of progress is being made in regard to the capacity building for becoming self-sufficient, yet the MS need to get more funds from CBSC and/or regional countries' training support for hydrographic capability development.

10. Actions Required from the IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

Note this report.

Commander Ahmed Hafez
NIOHC Chair