

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Chiang Mai, 21 – 23 May

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024

Tasks 3.2.1.8	NIOHC – North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission
------------------	--

Attendees included: Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives Myanmar (VTC), Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK and the USA

The meeting was generously hosted by the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy and was chaired by VAdm. Komsan Klinsukon (Thailand) with Capt. Rahman Rezaur (Bangladesh) as Vice Chair.

Following VAdm. Kinsukon, Dr. Nyberg who represented the IHO Secretariat provided introductory comments in which he echoed the Admiral's sentiments regarding the importance of hydrography beyond charting. Both introductions also presented the importance and challenges facing the hydrographic community regarding the implementation of the Universal Hydrographic Data Model, the need to work together to ensure a successful implementation, and the need to provide hydrography to support navigation, the environment, and livelihoods of seafarers.



*North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission*

Immediately following the introductions, the Commission held a flag ceremony to recognize the transfer of the chairmanship from Indonesia to Thailand.

Dr. Nyberg presented the Secretariat's Report where he highlighted the current issues that will impact the future of the IHO, including the future of S-100 leading up to 2030, IHO infrastructure, the Strategic Plan, and leaving no country behind.



*Flag Ceremony Cdre. Dyan Primana Sobaruddin (Indonesia)  
And VAdm. Komsan Klinsukon (Thailand)*

National Reports were delivered by all Full and Associate Member States of the Commission who were in attendance. The reports presented a few common themes including concerns about the capacity to implement S-100 products and services, notable concern about climate change, and available resources and opportunities for capacity building.

The NIOHC hosted a series of industry presentations that focused on data collection, processing, and product compilation.

During the closing session the Chair presented a presentation that highlighted achievements and challenges, presented below. The presentation was an excellent way to synthesize the action items and to prepare for the upcoming IRCC.

The next NIOHC will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, February 2025 (exact dates TBD).



NIOHC



NIOHC

### Achievements

- Appointed S-100 coordinator with separate duties from NICCWG.
- Continue Active Working Groups including NICCWG and MSDIWG.
- High number of INT charts produced (181 charts).
- A large number of participants including countries from outside the region participated in NIOHC meeting in Chiang-Mai, Thailand. Various commercial sectors also participated and presented e.g. software development, technological enterprises and training academies.
- Collaboration with neighbouring RHC on capacity building capacity to leverage the limited IHO capacity building fund was discussed intensively.
- The region welcomed the development of the IHO fund generation project team and the support provided by the RENCs as we move forward.
- Substantial achievement for enhancing gender balance in hydrography as demonstrated by India and Indonesia by means of their respective national reports.

### Challenges

- Collective improvement of hydrography and products at regional level would be best enabled by greater participation in IHO/NIOHC thus the Commission should also encourage non-member states to contribute and benefit from NIOHC CB activities and become eventually IHO/NIOHC members. (e.g. Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Maldives, etc.).
- Lack of CB funding (and opportunities) in the region.
- Absence of a well-defined plan for S-1xx implementation including augmentation of training in support of this important transition in ENC production and other S-100 based services.
- Lack of sufficient survey data contribution to GEBCO SEABED2030 and CSB (compared to other regions).