

High Level Visit and Hydrographic Workshop in Uganda Kampala, Uganda 20 January 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 1.3.2.1 Encourage new membership of the IHO

High level summary (can be used for posting on social media. Please provide concise lists in bullet point format):

- Adhesion to the IHO Convention by Uganda.
- Presented an extensive synopsis on the activities, structure and benefits of IHO membership.
- Progressed the potential use of crowdsourced bathymetry in the region to assist with the mapping of Africa's Great Lakes.
- The IHO and Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) signed a letter of intent to jointly build hydrographic capacity in the region.

Details:

The visit was managed by Ms Lucy Fieldhouse and Mr Nick Swadling of the UKHO who were supported by Dr John Nyberg.

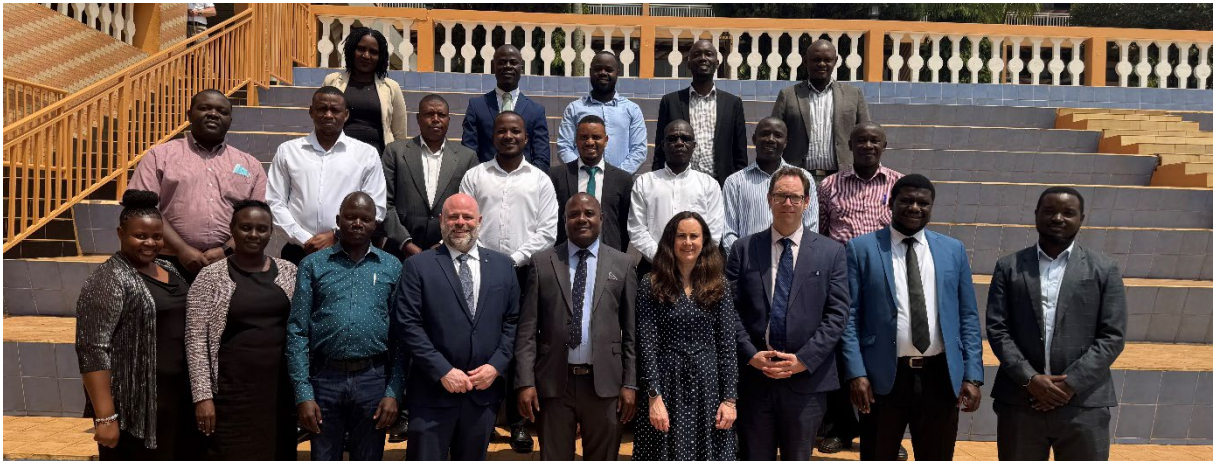
The full one-day workshop included an outline of the IHO's history, how it works, and the benefits of membership. Uganda's observer status in the SAIHC and potential full membership were discussed. There were detailed discussions on the availability of capacity building opportunities for IHO members, the importance of trade and transportation on Lake Victoria, and how Uganda might advance hydrographic capabilities in the future.

Mr Jonah Mumbya (MOESNA) managed a session on the in-depth work done by MOESNA in the region and a recent joint visit to the Lake Victoria region with IALA. Mr Mumbya strongly supported the importance of hydrography in the region and the value of IHO membership. MOESNA has also agreed to take a leadership role in obtaining permission for and then deploying crowdsourced data loggers on Lake Victoria. He will work closely with hydrographic offices in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to do so. Mr Mumbya and Dr Nyberg signed a letter of intent to work on advancing hydrographic interests in the region, including CSB on Lake Victoria.

The importance of inland navigation on lakes and rivers was expressed on many occasions during the day, particularly as pertaining to lakes that Uganda shares with neighbouring countries. Areas of pressing interest included crowdsourced bathymetry, current survey capability, status and future of nautical charts (particularly on Lake Victoria), geodetic controls in the region, and the future of nautical charting.

The participants (~25) included commissioners, department managers, survey technicians, and cartographers from several different ministries. They were extremely engaged and took advantage of the workshop to ask questions on everything from the process to join the IHO to the technical specification of survey equipment.

Photo



Upcoming meetings:

The SAIHC is scheduled for 15-18 September 2025 on Reunion Island, FR.