Maritime Authority SURINAME (MAS) - Maritime Open Days 2026

Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname, 4–6 November 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026.

1.3.1 Promote the IHO through publicity and public relations initiatives

High level summary

- The IHO Secretary-General, Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi, visited Suriname at the invitation of the Maritime Authority Suriname (MAS) to participate in the Maritime Open Days 2026, strengthening the visibility of hydrography as an enabler of safe navigation and sustainable economic development.
- A television interview, discussions with MAS and a river navigation aboard the multipurpose vessel MARWINA offered an operational perspective on the importance of hydrographic information for Suriname's dynamic river and coastal approaches.
- High-level meetings with Vice-President Gregory Rusland and Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism Raymond Landveld reinforced dialogue on international cooperation, authoritative maritime data and the development of the national maritime sector.
- The Secretary-General's keynote, "*From Green Land to Blue Horizons*", linked Suriname's extensive river network and maritime domain to the offshore economy, the S-100 digital transition, national skills and environmental stewardship.
- A masterclass at Anton de Kom University connected seabed mapping, S-100 services and the blue economy to education and professional opportunities, while recognizing MAS's growing regional and global leadership within the IHO.

Details:

1. Television interview, visit to MAS and navigation aboard MARWINA – 4 November 2026

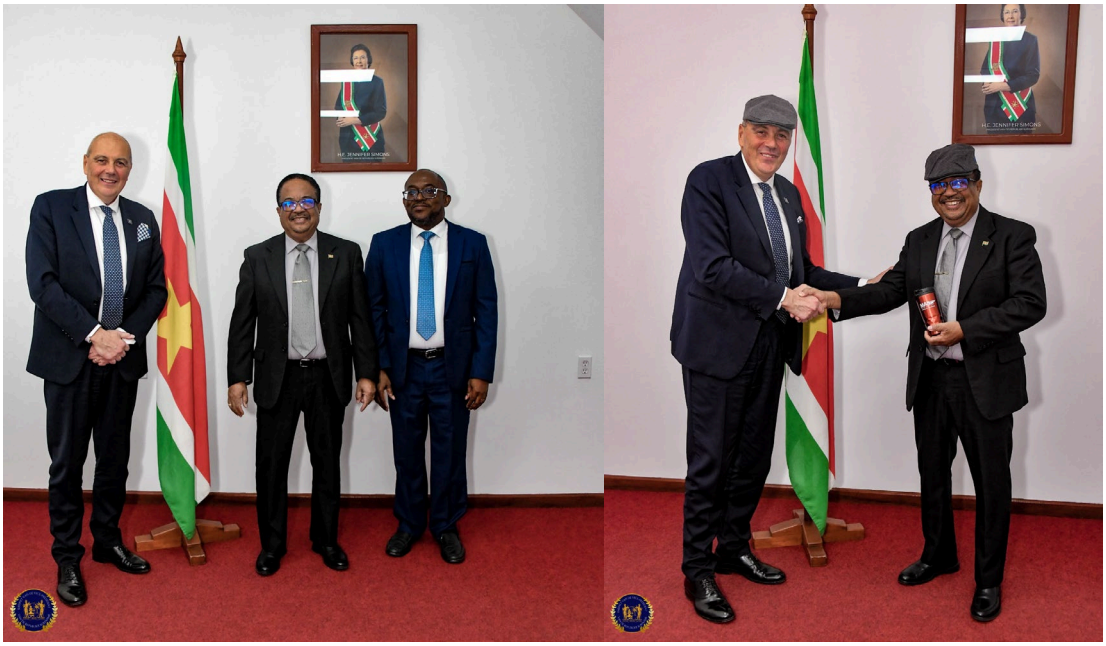
The visit began with an interview on the STVS morning programme "*Mamanten Taki*", during which Rear Admiral Sinapi presented the IHO's mission and the relevance of hydrographic knowledge to Suriname's maritime prospects. He then visited the Maritime Authority Suriname and embarked on its multipurpose vessel MARWINA for a navigation along the Suriname River. The operational visit highlighted the importance of recurring surveys, channel monitoring, aids to navigation and reliable data for safe river traffic and port access.



IHO Secretary-General on STVS's "Mamanten Taki" and onboard of MAS' MARWINA, 4 November

2. Courtesy call on the Vice-President of Suriname – 4 November 2026

In the afternoon, the Secretary-General met H.E. Dr Gregory Allan Rusland, Vice-President of the Republic of Suriname, accompanied by MAS' Director Mr. Michel Amafo. The exchange placed maritime knowledge, hydrographic capacity and international partnerships within the broader context of national development, including opportunities associated with Suriname's expanding offshore sector.



Rear Admiral Sinapi and Mr. Amafo with Vice-President Gregory Rusland, Paramaribo, 4 November

3. Maritime Open Days opening ceremony and exhibition – 5 November 2026

At the opening ceremony of the MAS Maritime Open Days, the Secretary-General delivered the keynote address "*From Green Land to Blue Horizons: Hydrography, Innovation and the Maritime Future of Suriname*". With Minister Raymond Landveld representing the President of the Republic, the ceremony brought together government representatives, MAS leadership, the maritime and offshore industries, and the diplomatic community. The address positioned hydrographic information as indispensable infrastructure for safe navigation, sound investment and responsible management of Suriname's rivers, coast and maritime domain.



The IHO S-G delivering his opening keynote.



Ceremonial ringing of the maritime bell.



Engaging with young visitors at the exhibition.

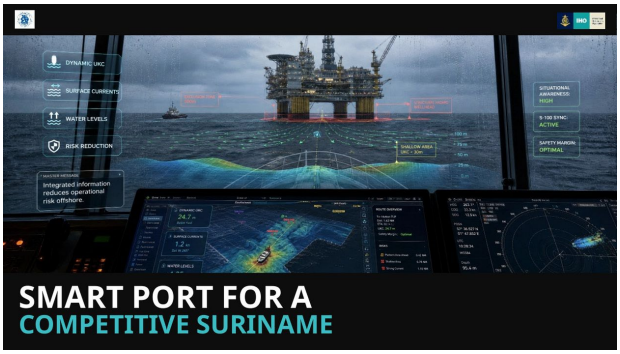
The Secretary-General highlighted the S-100 transition, modern seabed mapping, innovation and the development of national skills. He also recognized the international leadership of MAS Director Michel Amafo, Chair of the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2026, and Ms Bernice Mahabier, Chair of the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC). Following the symbolic ringing of the maritime bell, he toured the exhibition with Minister Landveld and Mr Amafo and engaged directly with young visitors exploring maritime careers.

4. Masterclass at Anton de Kom University – 6 November 2026

The Secretary-General delivered a masterclass entitled "*The Importance of Hydrography for the Country's Economy*", jointly organized by Anton de Kom University and MAS. Addressing students, academics and maritime stakeholders, he explained how hydrographic surveys and seabed mapping create value beyond chart production through safer river access, port efficiency, offshore development, coastal resilience and sound marine resource management.



University/MAS announcement of the 6 November Masterclass.

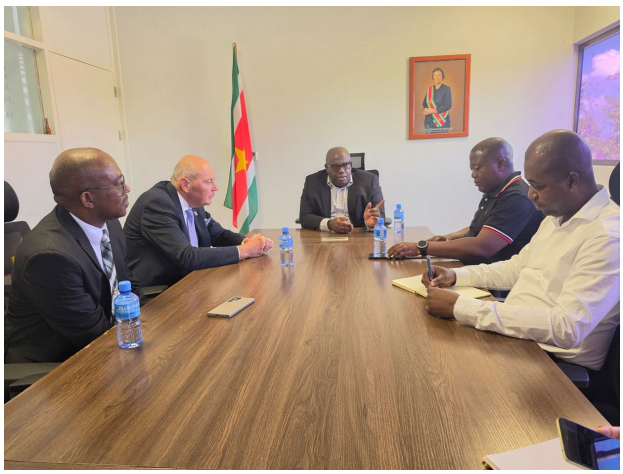


Selected masterclass slide: "Smart Port for a Competitive Suriname".

The presentation discussed GEBCO and Seabed 2030, the transformation from traditional charts to connected S-100 marine information services and the role of trusted data in smart ports and offshore operations. Particular emphasis was placed on education, research, capacity development and professional skills as the basis for converting maritime investments into lasting national expertise.

5. Meeting with the Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism – 6 November 2026

The visit concluded with an institutional meeting with Minister Raymond Landveld, attended by MAS Director Michel Amafo. Discussions covered international cooperation, maritime-sector development, the importance of common standards for safe navigation and access to authoritative hydrographic information. Rear Admiral Sinapi presented an IHO commemorative plaque to the Minister, while the Minister and MAS offered a token of appreciation to the Secretary-General.



Meeting at the Ministry with Minister Landveld and MAS Director Amafo.



Presentation of the IHO commemorative plaque to Minister Landveld.

The five engagements were complementary: operational exposure to MAS services, dialogue at the highest institutional level, outreach to the maritime community and young people, academic engagement and ministerial cooperation. Together they reinforced hydrography as a national strategic capability and highlighted the need to connect authoritative data, the S-100 transition, capacity development and sustainable blue-economy priorities. The visit also reaffirmed Suriname's valuable role in IHO governance and regional hydrographic cooperation.