

# Establishment and Efficient Operation of the IHO Infrastructure Centre

Submitted by: Republic of Korea

## REFERENCE

A: Assembly Decision A3/08(b) – highest priority on Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan

B: Assembly Decision A3/14 - establishment of the S-100 Infra[structure] Centre

C: Council Decision C7/11 Establishment of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre Establishment (ICE) Project Team under HSSC

D: Council Decision C7/12 Invitation to HSSC Members, then IHO Member States to provide their views on the recommendations delivered by the ICE PT

E: Report of the ICE PT to HSSC16

## PROPOSAL

Based on the third Assembly's principal decision to focus on Goal 1 *"Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation"* of IHO's Strategic Plan as the highest priority (Reference A), the Assembly decided in favour of the preparation of the establishment of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre within the three-year work plan 2023-2026 (Reference B).

The Council, supervising the work of the Hydrographic Standards & Services Committee (HSSC), endorsed the creation of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre Establishment (ICE) Project Team under HSSC (Reference C) and invited HSSC Members and, then IHO Member States to provide their views on the recommendations delivered by the report of ICE PT to HSSC16 (Reference D).

In view of the invitation expressed under Reference D, the Republic of Korea provides the following observations and follow-up offer:

The Republic of Korea concurs in principle with the recommendations provided by the report of the ICE PT (Reference E) and the resulting endorsement by HSSC16 in terms of required managerial, technical and human resources needed to establish the IHO Infrastructure Centre.

The Republic of Korea assesses the installation of the centre as compelling measure to maintain the digital infrastructure of the S-100 framework as the base line technology for IHO's aspirations to set the global standard for maritime navigation.

In full understanding of the estimated financial efforts of the establishment and continued maintenance of the future IHO Infrastructure Centre, the Republic of Korea offers to host and support funding for the operation of the Centre under the following conditions:

- The Centre will be located in the Republic of Korea as an integral part of IHO Secretariat.
- The IHO Secretariat will conduct the governance of the Centre .

- Details of the governance and other conditions will be outlined in a Host Agreement.
- The Host Agreement will take due note of the IHO Secretariat's requirement for additional administrative resources to remotely oversee the new entity in terms of human resources and financial management.
- The Republic of Korea is working to support funding of the operation of the Centre until 2035. Any further extension will be considered by the Republic of Korea and the IHO organs in due time before elapse of this period.
- The Republic of Korea is of the view that the installation of an integral part of the IHO is in compliance with the IHO Convention. The constitutional instruments of the IHO such as the General Regulations, the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations will apply to the Centre and the international employees who are working in it. However, the Republic of Korea recognizes that some clarifications or amendments may be required.
- All amendments and possible new or amended IHO Resolutions will become subject to the 4<sup>th</sup> IHO Assembly's approval, before final establishment of the Centre.

The deliberations made at HSSC16 concluded not only the compelling but likewise the urgent need to undertake concrete steps towards the provision of future functions of the IHO Infrastructure Centre. The Republic of Korea will support an interim solution by providing human and financial resources to ensure that the core functions of the Centre will not be delayed in the lead up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly in 2026.

The Republic of Korea is a longstanding proactive contributor to the IHO Work Programme. It is envisioned that some of the elements currently undertaken under the *IHO-KHOA Technical Coordination Agreement* between the IHO Secretariat and the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanography Agency (KHOA) as well as the provision of the IHO Portal and the technical platform for the IHO E-learning Centre can be integrated into the future IHO S-100 Infrastructure Centre to gain synergies.

The Republic of Korea hopes that its offer finds the support of the Council and stands ready to discuss its proposal at C-8.