Letter of Agreement on Support for the Operation of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Infrastructure Centre

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, Busan Metropolitan City, and the International Hydrographic Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "IHO"), hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party", in order to support the stable operation of the IHO Infrastructure Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre"), the establishment of which was approved at the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly on 23 April 2026, have agreed on this Letter of Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "LoA") as follows:

Artide 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this LoA is to set out the areas of cooperation among the Parties for the stable operation of the Centre established in Busan, Republic of Korea, and, through mutual cooperation, to contribute to the advancement of marine geospatial information at the national and international levels and to the development of related industries.

Artide 2 (Roles and Areas of Cooperation)

The Parties will actively cooperate, on the basis of mutual respect and trust, in the following areas:

1. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
   a. Administrative and financial support at the national government level for the operation of the Centre;
   b. Cooperation and coordination among relevant institutions in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the International Hydrographic Organization on the Establishment of the IHO Infrastructure Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "Host Agreement");
   c. Support for cooperation and linkages between the Centre and maritime-related institutions, enterprises, universities, research institutes and other relevant organizations in the Republic of Korea.

2. Busan Metropolitan City
   a. Administrative and financial support at the local government level for the operation of the Centre;
   b. Cooperation and support for the promotion and development of the regional maritime industry in connection with the Centre;
   c. Support for cooperation and linkages between the Centre and maritime-related institutions, enterprises, universities, research institutes and other relevant

organizations in the Busan region.

3. International Hydrographic Organization
   a. Operation of the Centre and performance of its functions in accordance with the relevant rules, regulations and decisions of the IHO;
   b. Establishment of a stable operational framework for the Centre and recruitment of qualified professional staff;
   c. Cooperation with IHO Member States and relevant international organizations to strengthen the international role of the Centre.

Article 3 (Implementation)

All cooperative activities under this LoA will be carried out within the limits of the applicable laws, regulations and rules of each Party and subject to the availability of its human resources and administrative and financial capacities. Where necessary, the Parties may establish and operate a working-level consultative body for consultation and coordination on matters relating to the operation of the Centre.

Article 4 (Confidentiality and Information Sharing)

1. A Party will not disclose to any third party, without the prior written consent of the other Party concerned, any non-public information obtained in the course of cooperative activities under this LoA, and will not use such information for any purpose other than those of this LoA. This paragraph will not prevent the IHO from reporting on the activities and operation of the Centre to its governing bodies and Member States, in accordance with its rules and established practice

2. The Parties may share information necessary for the operation of the Centre and data relevant to the advancement of marine geospatial information, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and their respective rules.

Article 5 (Amendment)

This LoA may be amended by prior mutual written consent of the Parties.

Article 6 (Legal Nature)

1. This LoA sets out the basic areas of cooperation for the stable operation of the Centre and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations under international law.
2. Matters not provided for in this LoA will be determined through mutual consultation among the Parties in accordance with the Host Agreement.

Article 7 (Effect and Duration)

1. This LoA will come into effect on the date of its signature by all Parties and will

remain in effect for a period of three (3) years from that date. Unless otherwise decided in writing by the Parties, it will be automatically extended for successive periods of three (3) years on the same terms.

2. A Party wishing to terminate this LoA will give written notice to the other Parties at least six (6) months before the intended date of termination.
3. The termination of this LoA will not affect any projects or activities already under way prior to the time of termination.
4. Matters concerning the sharing of costs related to the operation of the Centre after the termination of this LoA will be determined through separate consultations among the Parties.

Signed at Busan on 10 November 2026, in three (3) originals in the Korean language and three (3) originals in the English language, each signed or sealed by the Parties, with each Party retaining one (1) original in each language. All texts have equal validity. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For the International Hydrographic Organization	For and on behalf of Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea	For Busan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea
		
Name: Luigi SINAPI **Job Title: Secretary-General**	**Name: Jeongho SEO** **Job Title: Deputy Minister for Marine Policy**	**Name: CHUN Jae-soo** **Job Title: Mayor**