

**Report on the Mission to Haiti**  
**27 January 2009**

**I.- Introduction**

In late November 2008, Dr. Alrich NICOLAS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti and Chairman of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) invited the IHO to give a presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers' Council of the ACS in Port au Prince, Haiti, 28/30 January 2009.

The IHB reacted positively and decided to add value to this mission by holding a meeting with the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti (SEMANAH) to discuss the Report provided after the Technical Visit paid in October 2008. This was coordinated with MOFA of Haiti.

**II.- Meeting with SEMANAH.**

**1.- Working Meeting at the National Port Authority (NPA).**

In the morning of the 27 January a meeting was held at the National Port Authority (APN) with the participation key players from SEMANAH and APN with whom the following agenda was agreed and followed:

- a) General discussion on the Situation after the Technical Visit.
- b) Review of the progress made with regard to the Technical Report Recommendations.
- c) Discussion on existing opportunities to advance on the implementation of Recommendations.
- d) Identification of follow-up actions for Haiti and IHB
- e) Any Other Business.

**2.- Development of the meeting.**

a) Haiti's Authorities reaction to the Technical Report was very good. A meeting of their experts was convened by the MOFA and different actions were agreed. One of these actions was the submission to the Parliament of a proposal to establish the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of Haiti (SHOH). This was discussed within the frame of the SEMANAH budget for 2009 and it was strongly supported by this governing body.

Different Ministries expressed their support to the project, including the Ministry of Finances.

It has been so far formalized the requirement to the Ministry of Interior on the use of the facilities that shall host the Service.

At this stage SEMANAH is in the process of identifying the technical personnel that should start their training. In this area it was explored with success the contribution that the National Applied Geologic School could provide to the training requirements of the project.

b) All recommendations included in the report were commented and discussed in order to ensure a clear understanding of each of them. It was made clear that there have been little specific progress with regard to the recommendations made. It was felt that it was too soon to expect the adoption of other actions than those already taken and referred to. Nevertheless the discussion was focused on the recommendations labeled as "for immediate action" where the IHO representative reported on the actions advanced by the IHB in order to facilitate its implementation. It was made clear by the IHB and perfectly understood by the participants that the IHB cannot progress further without the express consent of Haiti's authorities.

c) In this point of the agenda the IHB representative provided information on the results had after conducting some coordination with some IHO Member States and bodies. Details were provided on concrete opportunities to access to the following training areas:

- Marine Safety Information with NAVAREA IV Coordinator (USA). This is a course for the person designated to be the operator of the National Marine Safety Information Center.

- Technical Visits for the Project Leader to a couple of Hydrographic Offices to receive in situ training and experience that would strongly benefit the development of the project to establish a Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service in Haiti (Chile and Cuba).
- Basic Practical Hydrographic Training Course to be delivered by IHO's Regional Hydrographic Commission for the Meso America and Caribbean Sea (MACHC) in Venezuela.
- Category B Hydrographic Training Course to be delivered in India. This course requires some pre-requisites with regard to mathematic, physics and others.
- Nautical Cartographic Training Course to be delivered in the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and also a Chart Production and ENC Training Course to be delivered in Brazil under IHO MACHC. These two courses require previous knowledge in the field of cartography. It was recommended that a participant from the National Geospatial Information Center should be considered, provided that later will be oriented to the production of nautical cartography.

Note: To facilitate the coordination with the identified providers of support, the IHB representative handed the coordinates for all contacts to the participants in the meeting (Annex A).

d) It was agreed that the follow-up actions are with Haiti's authorities. It was also agreed that the IHB would rest standby until further progress is made with regard to the implementation of the recommendations made.

e) There was no other matter to be considered under any other business

### **3.- Meeting with the Director General of SEMANAH.**

In the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup>, the IHB representative met with the Director General of SEMANAH Mrs. Marie JEAN providing a brief of the morning meeting. Mrs. JEAN was very thankful to the IHO for the great support Haiti has received. She indicated that the development of hydrographic capabilities including the establishment of the SHOH were high priorities for Haiti and therefore have received strong expressions of support of different governmental bodies.

Referring to the IHO Report on the Technical Visit paid by the IHO in October 2008, Mrs. JEAN committed to officially acknowledge reception of it and to provide comments to the IHB quiet soon. Also indicated that SEMANAH will consider the outcome of the meeting just held and will provide the IHB with clear indications on the way Haiti would like to proceed.

It was provided to DG of SEMANAH documentation circulated by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History calling for projects for technical assistance for 2010. This other opportunity, for which Haiti is entitle to apply as member of this Institute, may be explored to find resources to support some initiatives already identified in the IHO Technical Report. This information was very well appreciated.

In conclusion, it might be indicated that the meeting was very successful. It was made clear the recognition of the Haitian Authorities to the IHO for the support provided. On the other side Haiti Authorities are aware that the implementation phase of the initiatives identified correspond to activities within their domain.

I take the opportunity to thank all those with whom I met for a very frank and productive discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Hugo Gorziglia  
 Captain – Chilean Navy  
 IHB Director

**Annex A**  
**Contact Coordinates**

**a) Marine Safety Information Course**

NAVAREA IV Co-ordinator  
Mr. Peter DOHERTY,  
Chief, Global Operations, Office of Global Navigation,  
ATTN: PV (Mail Stop D-44), 4600 Sangamore Road,  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816-5003, **USA**  
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E-mail: Peter.M.Doherty@nga.mil

**b) Technical Visit for the SHOH Project Leader**

**CHILE**

Captain Mariano ROJAS  
Director  
SERVICIO HIDROGRAFICO Y OCEANOGRAFICO DE LA ARMADA  
Casilla 324  
237-0168 VALPARAISO - **CHILE**  
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**CUBA**

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**c) Basic Practical Hydrographic Training Course**

Capitán de Navío  
Doña Ana Rosensil SUAREZ Pacheco  
Directora  
Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación  
Observatorio “CAGICAL”  
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**d) Category B Hydrographic Training Course in India (Basic “H” Course)**

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Port- au- Prince, **HAITI**  
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Contact at the Indian National Hydrographic Office  
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**e) Cartographic Course**

**United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)**

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**Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)**

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Chairman MACHC  
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