

High Level Visit to Panama Panama City, 5-6 March 2020

| Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020 | |
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| Task 1.3.2.1 | Undertake high-level visits to Governments of non-MS |

IHO Director Mustafa Iptes, accompanied by Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves, paid a high-level visit to Panama City, Panama on 5 and 6 March to invite and encourage the application of Panama to become a Member State of the IHO and to advise on the need to promote and develop the national hydrographic infrastructure.

In the first part of the programme, the IHO Team visited the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) and called on H.E. Mr. Noriel ARAUZ, Minister of Maritime Affairs of Panama and highlighted the process for membership. Director Iptes and Assistant Director Costa Neves also had a special meeting with the PMA Executive Team and representatives of the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) and discussed the benefits of becoming a full Member State of the IHO, the advantages of engaging with key national stakeholders and the governance aspects of hydrography and nautical charting.

Director Iptes was informed that the Panama Maritime Authority in partnership with the Panama Canal Authority have a positive desire to join the IHO in the near future and have seriously considered all details of the membership process. Minister Noriel ARAUZ and Director Iptes agreed on working closely to facilitate the membership process of Panama.



The IHO Team and H.E. Minister Noriel ARAUZ at the Panama Maritime Authority.

In the second part of their programme, the IHO Team visited the Panama Canal Authority and had a meeting on the IHO membership process with Mr Jaime Rodríguez, Chief Hydrographer of the PCA who represent the PCA with regards to IHO matters, including the membership process. The IHO Team also visited the Simulator Center of Panama Canal, received a briefing at the operation center of the Miraflores Lock of the Panama Canal and visited the Vessel Traffic Control Center of the PCA.