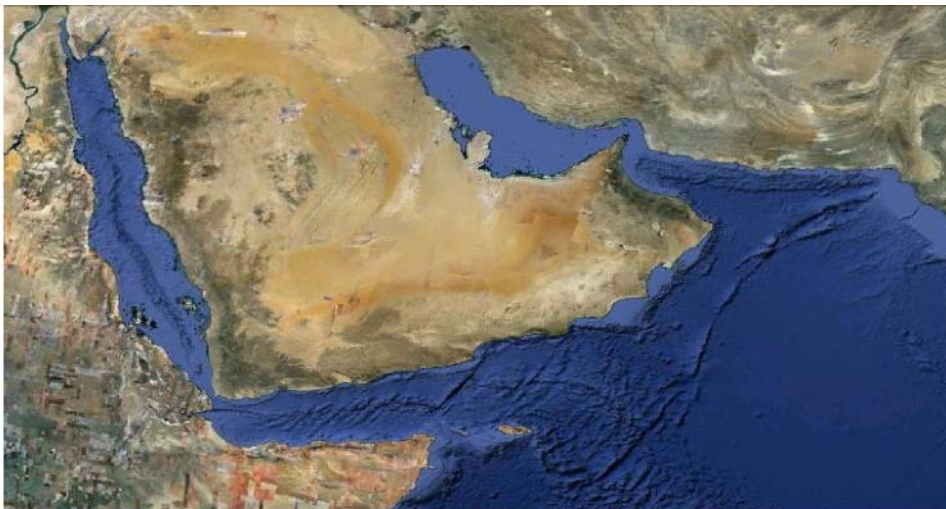




**8th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(RSAHC 8)**



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

18-20 FEBRUARY 2019

PAKISTAN NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk

Telephone: +92 - 21 – 48506151-4

Fax: +92 -21 - 99201623

FINAL REPORT

8th MEETING OF THE ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC8)

**18 to 20 February 2019
Islamabad – Pakistan**

*Note: All RSAHC8 Reference Documents are available at IHO website:
http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/RSAHC/RSAHC8/RSAHC8.htm*

Opening ceremony of the 8th meeting of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) was held on Monday, 18th February 2019 at Serena hotel, Islamabad. Vice Admiral Kaleem Shaukat HI (M), Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (Pakistan Navy) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The meeting was sponsored by the Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department (PNHD) under the auspices of Pakistan Navy.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN, DIRECTOR IHO AND CHIEF GUEST

1. Captain Muhammad Khalid PN, Hydrographer Pakistan Navy, Chairman RSAHC welcomed the participants. His welcome note was followed by speech from Rear Admiral (Retd) Mustafa Iptes, Director International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and address by the Chief Guest. Following aspects were highlighted during the ceremony:

- a. Chairman RSAHC welcomed all the participants and thanked IHO and Pakistan Navy for the support to conduct RSAHC meeting in Pakistan.
- b. Director IHO highlighted the importance of RHCs and appreciated the contribution and commitment of Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department (PNHD) as the chairman of RSAHC.
- c. The Chief Guest welcomed all the participants and highlighted the importance of hydrography towards safety of navigation. In addition, he appreciated the dedication of IHO towards capacity building and other hydrographic related matters.

PARTICIPANT OF THE MEETING

2. Member States IR of Iran (IRN), Oman (OMN), Pakistan (PAK) and Saudi Arabia (SAU), associate member UK (GBR) with representatives from ixBlue, Leica GeoSystems, SevenCs, and IHO Secretariat were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

3. Agenda of the meeting and progress of events was presented to the house. Same was duly approved.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (RSAHC7)

4. Meeting reviewed the List of Action items from RSAHC7 and all the attendees expressed their content on the progress made.

REPORT BY IHO

5. IHO provided a comprehensive summary of activities since the RSAHC7 meeting held in Oman in February 2017. IHO urged all MS to provide regular updates to C-55 – Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide and P-5 – IHO Yearbook, which it was recommended should be reviewed at least once per year.

6. Member States were encouraged to support and contribute data towards the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO), Shallow Water Bathymetry initiative to extend the coverage inside the 200 meter contour.

7. Director IHO emphasized that report of RSAHC for the next Council meeting should be synchronized with inputs from member states and submitted to Secretary General well before time.

8. With reference to participation in next IHO Council meeting, it was clarified that IR of Iran and Pakistan being the current members of IHO Council will attend the next meeting scheduled in Monaco from 15 – 17 October 2019.

9. After completion of Pakistan's three years term at IHO Council, the newly elected Vice Chairman alongwith IR of Iran will take the seat in the IHO Council for the term 2020 – 2023. Intimation of the same is to be forwarded to the Secretary General IHO by the Chairman RSAHC before IHO Assembly meeting 2020.

NATIONAL REPORTS

10. IR of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and UK presented their reports. Bahrain, France, Qatar, and Kuwait did not attend the meeting; however, they forwarded their national reports. Whereas, UAE, Iraq and USA did not attend the meeting neither submitted national report.

11. The following highlights and requests for clarification were noted:

a. Bahrain highlighted that they are actively engaged in hydrographic surveying of their areas through own resources and with the assistance USA Fleet Survey Team. Bahrain is publishing their ENC's and maintaining INT chart series and they have not faced any difficulties in distribution of the products.

b. IR of Iran briefed the main contents of its report, particularly assets, charts and nautical publications. It was noted that Iran has multiple platforms for undertaking hydrographic surveys. Iran maintains large inventory of nautical charts and ENC's covering Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Caspian Sea.

c. Kuwait highlighted that the hydrographic survey division employees had many training courses on surveys and cartography inside and outside of Kuwait since it was created in 1982. Due to retirement and some employees transferring to other jobs, the division is in need for training of new employees. The division appreciates the IHO training program and intends to send few employees to attend in the future.

d. Oman briefed on the hydrographic and cartographic capabilities along with organizational structure. It was noted that Oman has limited survey assets (presently one ship), however, they have plans to acquire new ships. At the international level Oman remains and active member of IHO.

e. Pakistan highlighted current hydrographic survey and cartographic status. It was noted that Pakistan has updated paper and Electronic Charts for coastal areas (less than 200m). New survey vessel of Pakistan is expected to be delivered in August 2019. This vessel is equipped with state of the art Hydrographic, Oceanographic and Geophysical survey equipment. It is planned that this vessel would be deployed for supporting regional countries with respect to hydrographic surveys and capacity building. Systematic deeper water survey coverage would be increased with the induction of new survey vessel. Pakistan is also conducting IHO recognized Cat B hydrography course. Personnel from Azerbaijan and Sri Lanka have also attended the said course in Pakistan. Moreover, in future Pakistan will invite other regional countries for the hydrographic training.

f. Qatar maintains a small hydrographic unit under the Ministry of Municipality. Hydrographic Unit does not produce any form of nautical charts. The

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is providing nautical charting for the waters of Qatar.

g. Saudi Arabia briefed that General Commission of Survey (GCS) continues to develop and gain experience adapting state of the art technologies for hydrographic surveying and nautical publication, committing to assure safety of navigation under IHO/IMO regulations. It is expected that the coastal series of nautical charts will be completed by 2020/2021 for the entire KSA coastal waters.

h. France highlighted that SHOM supports any initiatives aiming at improving the maritime knowledge and the navigation safety, as far as the data collected benefits the charting authorities and the update of nautical documentation of that region.

j. UK briefed about the hydrographic activities and INT charts/ENC production status along with capacity building courses offered to various developing countries. UKHO is very active within the RSAHC region, they have produced total of 50 products chart since RSAHC7.

REVIEW OF STATUS OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND NAUTICAL CHARTING IN RSAHC REGION (IHO PUBLICATION C-55)

12. All RSAHC MS were reminded of the necessity to review their C-55 and IHO Yearbook (P-5) entries annually to ensure the information remains current. It was agreed that information contained in the National Reports would be checked against the current information and any changes would be noted. However, it was highlighted that, as the RSAHC does not meet every year, there was a need for MS to submit information in non-meeting years. Chairman RSAHC is required to generate an interim Performa for obtaining feedback from all member states.

REPORT BY INT CHART AND ENC COORDINATOR

13. With regards to issue of overlapping data in ENCs, it has been decided by RSAHC that a reference needs to be established for identifying the ENCs and their overlaps. In this regard, in light of WEND principles ENCs corresponding to INT Charts are considered as an appropriate reference. Therefore, the overlaps between ENC (corresponding to INT Charts) may only be evaluated/ deliberated at respective forums. Whereas, local ENCs that have overlap with INT Chart, corresponding ENCs may be

withdrawn from distribution to simplify the matter and avoid exaggerated complexities.

PROMULGATION OF NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS, MSI AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GMDSS IN NAVAREA IX

14. Pakistan provided a comprehensive update on NAVAREA IX and regional MSI provision; this included a brief of the new MSI management system and website. IHO highlighted modernization plan for the GMDSS, recognition of new mobile satellite service providers of the GMDSS and display of MSI on ECDIS.

15. Assistant Director IHO highlighted that in near future NAVAREA coordinators would be required to upload NAVAREA warnings to more than one service providers which would affect in the shape of increased fee to be paid by NAVAREA coordinators.

16. During the discussion, it was also highlighted that as per the organization of WWNWS, only one designated state act as area coordinator. All the remaining states are designated as national coordinators. Terminologies like Sub Region Coordinators are not to be used.

17. National coordinators were encouraged to setup their own MSI offices/ mechanisms for updating of NAVAREA warnings. MENAS has the status of commercial entity and cannot be considered as national coordinator.

PRESENTATIONS FROM INDUSTRY

18. The Commission received presentations from ixBlue, Leica GeoSystems and SevenCs. The technologies and advanced information regarding hydrographic equipment and charting was highly appreciated by the participants.

19. ixBlue presented DRIX, the surface drone technologies which is highly capable of conducting IHO standard compliant surveys with flexible payloads/ equipment such as Multibeam Echosounder (MBES), Sub Bottom Profiler, oceanographic and geophysical sensors etc. The advantages this technology offers in terms of cost, time and quality were well appreciated by the participants of the meeting.

20. Leica GeoSystems presented LIDAR technology with advancement of 3.5 times sacchi depth performance. This LIDAR system has overcome the traditional limitations of LIDAR systems such as turbidity and surf zone etc. This LIDAR has achieved excellent results in the estuaries and near shore zones. The technology was highly

appreciated by the participants of the meeting.

21. SevenCs presented their modern paper/ electronic chart production flow line and its components. Advantages such as BENCs and high density contours etc were highlighted amicably during the presentation. The cartographic flexibility and time compression performance of SevenCs chart/ enc production tools were highly appreciated by all the participants.

22. At the end of the presentations by industry, Chairman RSAHC extended special thanks to the industry for their participation.

CAPACITY BUILDING (CB) MATTERS

23. RSAHC welcomed the nomination of Mr. Hamdan Al Yahmadi as capacity building coordinator for RSAHC region. During the discussion on proposed program for the next three years, it was pointed out that Cat A and Cat B program should not be included in the Capacity Building for which funding is required from IHO.

24. With regards to proposed technical visit of IR of Iran, it was discussed that an arrangement is to be made where all regional hydrographic offices can be benefitted. In this regard, Oman proposed that one representative of each hydrographic office visit UKHO to gain experience and learn from the advanced methods/ working procedures of UKHO. The visit is to be funded through CB fund. UKHO has provisionally shown agreement to this arrangement however, final confirmation is to be obtained.

25. It was also discussed that CB coordinator is to share the revised program for the year 2019 and the proposed revised program for years 2021 – 2022 with the MS for their views/ comments.

NOMINATION FOR EDITORIAL BOARD

26. Nomination of Mr. Hamdan Al Yahmadi of Oman was proposed to take up the duties of editorial board. View and comments of MS are required by 15 April 2019 for finalization.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

27. IR of Iran and Oman showed willingness to become Chair. However, the statute of RSAHC highlights that “In the normal course of events the current Vice Chairman will succeed as the Chairman at the end of the meeting”. Therefore, keeping in view the

statute, it was decided that IR of Iran being the Vice Chair will assume the duties of Chairman and Oman will assume the seat of Vice Chair.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

28. Director Iptes highlighted that keeping in view the less participation by member states, 2nd extraordinary meeting of RSAHC may be scheduled prior IHO Assembly meeting in 2020. The suggestion was agreed after consultation with member states. Final dates and venue would be declared by Chairman after consultation with IHO. Notwithstanding, it was also decided that RSAHC9 will be scheduled in 2021.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

29. The Chairman asked delegates if there were any additional comments. The Chairman extended his thanks to Member States, Associate Members, commercial companies, organizations and all present for their inputs attendance and contributions to the meeting. He also thanked IHO Secretariat for their guidance and help during the meeting.

30. Director Iptes commented on the success of the meeting and congratulated all participants for their active participation. He bode success to all and wished them a very fruitful session till next meeting. Members supported these comments and thanked Pakistan for successfully hosting and managing the meeting and all the associated arrangements.

31. The Chairman formally closed the meeting, looking forward to welcoming all participants back for 2nd extra ordinary RSAHC meeting in 2020. At the end he wished all a safe return to their respective countries.

Annexes:

A. Full list of attendees (RSAHC8-Participants).

B. Actions List (RSAHC8-Actions).

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
8th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING (RSAHC8)
FROM 18 TO 20 FEBRUARY 2019 AT ISLAMABAD- PAKISTAN

No.	Name	Organization	Country	E-mail contact
1.	Khojasteh Ali Reza	Ports and Maritime Organization	Iran	akhojasteh@pmo.ir
2.	Akbar Rostami	Ports and Maritime Organization	Iran	akrostami@pmo.ir
3.	Ehsan Esamili	Ports and Maritime Organization	Iran	eesmaili@pmo.ir
4.	Ahmed Ali Albadi	Oman National Hydrographic Office	Oman	Ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om
5.	Hamdan Al Yahmadi	Omantel	Oman	nhooman@omantel.net.om
6.	Mansoor Al Wahaibi	Ministry of Transport & Communications	Oman	mansoorw@motc.gov.om
7.	Muhammad Khalid	Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department	Pakistan	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk
8.	Salman Ahmed Khan	Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department	Pakistan	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk , sakhydro@gmail.com
9.	Waqas Iqbal Qureshi	Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department	Pakistan	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk
10.	Tajammal Manzoor Abbasi	Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department	Pakistan	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk
11.	Ali Akram	Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department	Pakistan	hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk
12.	Abdulaziz Awad	GCS	Saudi Arabia	aa.alqhtani@gcs.gov.sa
13.	Al-Ghamdi Muhammad	GCS	Saudi Arabia	ma.alghamdi@gcs.gov.sa
14.	Salem Al Ghazwani	GCS	Saudi Arabia	s.alghzwani@gcs.gov.sa
15.	Sultan Abdullah Bin Hajlaa	GCS	Saudi Arabia	s.hajlaa@gcs.gov.sa
16.	Timothy Lewis	UKHO	UK	Tim.lewis@ukho.gov.uk
17.	Christopher Brice	UKHO	UK	Chris.Brice@ukho.gov.uk
18.	Mustafa Iptes	Director IHO	Monaco	dcoord@iho.int
19.	David Wyatt	A/Director IHO	Monaco	david.wyatt@iho.int
20.	Faure Lionel	ixBlue	France	Lionel.faure@ixblue.com
21.	Vincentelli David	ixBlue	France	david.vincentelli@ixblue.com

22.	Loh Yee Wei	SevenCs	Singapore	Yee.Wei@sevencs.com
23.	Rolf Schaeppi	Leica GeoSystems	Switzerland	Rolf.Schaeppi@hexagon.com

ACTION LIST

8th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING (RSAHC8)

FROM 18 TO 20 FEBRUARY 2019 AT ISLAMABAD- PAKISTAN

No	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	To inform IHO of any changes to data and ensure that information is published on the IHO website, C-55 and IHO Year Book P-5	All	Progressive
2.	Status of IHO website, C-55 and IHO Year Book is to be reviewed yearly	Chairman	On 30 December each year
3.	To generate an interim Performa for obtaining feedback on C-55 and P-5 from all member states.	Chairman	Progressive
4.	To consider provision of shallow water bathymetric data to IHO-IOC GEBCO Program.	All	Progressive
5.	Report of RSAHC for the next Council meeting should be synchronized with inputs from member states and submitted to Secretary General well before time.	Chairman	Well Before next IHO Council meeting
6.	Intimation of nomination of IHO membership (IR of Iran and Oman) is to be forwarded to the Secretary General IHO before IHO Assembly meeting 2020.	Chairman	31 December 2019
7.	Visit of one representative of each hydrographic office of RSAHC to UKHO in order to gain experience and learn from the advanced methods/ working procedures of UKHO be coordinated with UKHO and IHO.	CB Coordinator	31 December 2019
8.	sharing of revised program for the year 2019 and the proposed revised program for years 2021 – 2022 with the MS for their views/ comments	CB Coordinator	Before submission to CBSC
9.	Views/ comments on nomination of Mr. Hamdan Al Yahmadi of Oman to take over duties of editorial board.	All	15 April 2019
10.	Finalization of date and venue for 2 nd extraordinary meeting of RSAHC in coordination with IHO.	Chairman	31 Dec 2019