

18th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC18
June 2020

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC18

North Indian Ocean HC Report

Submitted by:	NIOHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at NIOHC.
Related Documents:	NIOHC CB Plan 2018-2020 NIOHC CB Plan 2021-2023
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

A three-year plan for CB activity in the NIOHC region was approved by the membership in July 2017. This plan covers the period 2018-2020 and is reviewed annually (during NIOHC meetings) to ensure it meets regional requirements. The plan is based on assessing the phase of development of each of the coastal states within the NIOHC region (as determined by the IHO's three phases of CB) and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS treaty obligations. There is a great deal of 'SOLAS awareness' required in this region.

A CB Plan for 2021-2023 has been drafted and looks to develop the coastal states in the region as new challenges and opportunities are faced by the RHC such as emerging standards and technologies. Capacity Building support will become critical for the region following the long term and as yet not fully realised impacts of pandemic, COVID-19 are felt.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

NIOHC Counties/Territories Capacity Building Phase Stage

Reference: http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/CB/CBA_TechnicalVisits.htm

	Country / Territory	NHC or NHCC	CB Phase 1	CB Phase 2	CB Phase 3	Last TV
1	Bangladesh	-1	4	4	4	2012
2	British Indian Ocean Territories	-1	4	4	4	N/R
3	Djibouti	-1	-1	3	3	N/R
4	Egypt	-1	4	4	3/4	
5	Eritrea	-1	0	0	3	
6	India	-1	4	4	4	N/R
7	Israel	-1	4	4	4	2014
8	Jordan	-1	1	1	3	
9	Maldives	-1	-1	3	3	2008*
10	Mauritius	-1	3	3	3	2012
11	Myanmar	-1	4	4	3/4	2008*
12	Oman	2	4	4	3/4	2007

13	Pakistan	-1	4	4	4	N/R
14	Saudi Arabia	-1	4	4	3/4	2007
15	Seychelles	2	4	3	3	2012
16	Somalia	-1	-1	0	3	
17	Sri Lanka	-1	4	4	3/4	2014
18	Sudan	-1	1	1	3	2007
19	Thailand	-1	4	4	4	2008*
20	Yemen	-1	-1	1	3	2007

* IOC/IHO (IO COAST-MAP Joint project) consolidated report

KEY

1. The numerical grid below describes the status of the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC)/National Hydrographic Coordination Committee (NHCC):

Value	Assessment
-1	No information available
0	The country does not have a NHC/NHCC
1	The country is in the process of establishing a NHC/NHCC
2	The country has established a NHC/NHCC

2. The numerical grid below applies to the Phases:

Value	Assessment
-1	No information available
0	The country is unaware of its national obligations
1	The country is aware of its national obligations but does not have the means to do it
2	The country has the ability to fulfil national obligations
3	The country fulfils its national obligations through a third party
4	The country fulfils its national obligations in a sustainable manner

Note: the assessment represented by 3 is an alternative to 4 as explained in the IHO's Capacity Building Strategy

3. Those coastal states with a mature hydrographic service and consequently don't require a technical visit are marked as N/R (not required)

3. Activities completed since CBSC17

Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography - Muscat, Oman 25 March 2019

Attended by representatives from: Mauritius, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen.

The support of the IHO in funding these representatives ensured the largest attendance at a NIOHC Meeting. The IHO, IMO and IALA participated in the Seminar and as part of the UN goal 'three delivered as one'. The seminar stimulated discussions around the roles and responsibilities of coastal states and the support that the organizations that participated can provide. The seminar has enabled ongoing communication to be established. The funded attendees not only delivered strong contributions during the seminar, they also greatly enriched the discussions during plenary.

4. Activities planned for 2020

Due to the impact of COVID-19 the funded MSI Training Course cannot be delivered in 2020. This activity has been resubmitted for consideration by the CBSC for funding in 2021. As a phase 1 activity and as a joint submission with the RSAHC it is hoped that this will be successful in securing funding due to the regional development it will enable.

5. Challenges faced in the region

The pandemic, COVID-19, is of course not unique to NIOHC; however, NIOHC20, which was due to be held in Colombo in July 2020 has been postponed until further notice. We need to strive to maintain communications using the variety of remote conferencing technologies available in order to maintain momentum.

The Indian Ocean provides major sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia with Europe and the Americas. It carries a particularly heavy traffic of petroleum and petroleum products from the oilfields of the Persian Gulf and Indonesia. Every year some 100,000 cargo ships pass through the Indian Ocean, as well as 66% of the world's oil shipments. Large reserves of hydrocarbons are being tapped in the offshore areas of Saudi Arabia, Iran and India. An estimated 40% of the world's offshore oil production comes from the Indian Ocean. Beach sands rich in heavy minerals and offshore placer deposits are actively exploited by bordering countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. For these reasons, it is crucial that SOLAS contracting Governments undertake hydrographic surveys as and when required, that they arrange for the compilation and publication of hydrographic data, the dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.

The Indian Ocean continues to face significant environmental challenges such as cyclones that cause significant devastation and disruption. Having a comprehensively trained community in phase I activity supports robust reporting in the lead up to, and after these environmental impacts.

One of the most significant challenges the NIOHC faces is engaging with the Red Sea maritime states, some of whom remain out of communication. Much work is required in building and developing sustainable Hydrographic services in these states. This also applies to the Maldives.

Very few of these Red Sea states are IHO members so don't qualify for the higher-level training opportunities which are only available to members.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

There is close coordination between the NIOHC CB Coordinator and their counterpart in the RSAHC, with CB activities being opened up to RSAHC Members. This coordination will allow greater benefits to be realized from the CB fund.

India has been very active over many years in developing hydrographic services in Mauritius. This also applies to several other IO nations

7. Conclusions:

Regional activities are important to enable greater engagement in the region.

The Indian and UK Government's contribution to regional capacity building has augmented the

IHO's efforts and undoubtedly improved both the education and data gathering regionally.

A CB Plan for 2021-2023 has been drafted and looks to develop the coastal states in the region as new challenges and opportunities are faced by the RHC. The plan will be reviewed regularly in consideration of the New standards that will be implemented that will call for a review of the products and services coastal states provide; new technologies that will begin to change the maritime industry and global events such as COVID-19 will call for coastal states to be able to react to economic pressures, all of these will call for a greater efficiency in the use of resources to build capacity.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- c. take any action considered appropriate.

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