

18th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC18
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Paper for the Consideration by CBSC18

RSAHC Report

Submitted by:	RSAHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at RSAHC.
Related Documents:	RSAHC Status
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction/Background

Everybody knows the Persian Gulf as one of the most strategic waterways in the world due to its importance in global oil transportation. This region contains about 55 to 68% of the world's oil reserves, and more than 25% of world total natural gas reserves. Depths in the Persian Gulf are comparatively shallow, with the average of 50 meters, and deep-draught tankers may have to navigate for a considerable distance with little water beneath their keels. 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.

In this regard, during the ROPME-IHO Workshop concerning the hydrographic activities of the ROPME and Red Sea regions held in Kuwait on 24-27 October 1999, the idea of forming a Regional Hydrographic Commission was raised. The ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) was subsequently established in Tehran, on 7-10 October 2000 at the Ports and Maritime Organization of the I.R. of Iran, under the initiative of the I.R. of Iran, Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates with observers from the IHB, United Kingdom, Canada, Pakistan, Republic of Yemen and MENAS. Main activities include the progress in developing the INT chart scheme, MSI, inter-state co-operation and a number of other regional issues in the capacity building area.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

	Country / Territory	NHC or NHCC	CB Phase 1	CB Phase 2	CB Phase 3	Last TV
1	Bahrain	-1	4	4	4	2008
2	Iran	2	4	4	4	2007
3	Iraq	-1	1	1	3	
4	Kuwait	-1	1	2	3	
5	Oman	2	4	4	4	2007
6	Pakistan	2	4	4	4	N/R
7	Qatar	-1	1	4	3	2007
8	Saudi Arabia	1	4	4	3/4	2007
9	United Arab Emirates	1	1	2	3	2013

KEY

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

1. 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

2. Those coastal States with a mature hydrographic service and thus not requiring a technical visit are marked as N/R (not required).

3. Activities completed since CBSC17

Since The representative of I.R. of Iran was appointed as the CB Coordinator of RSA region , he had some communication with the RSAHC Member States via email and received some positive feedbacks from some member states. After receiving CL 09 /2020 concerning the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) Project, UKHO, Taunton, UK, 1 September to 18 December 2020, we had distributed it among the RSAHC Member States on 02.08.2020, before selecting Iranian nomination for this course. Another course which we have distributed it between all RSAHC Member States was "Master of Science Program in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea (8th Course, August 2020 – August 2021)

4. Activities planned for 2020

Activity	Phase	Beneficiaries			
Countries / Territories	Responsible	Period	Obs.		
Extraordinary Technical Implementation Visits (5days)	0.3	For identified coastal state	RSAHC CB Coordinator	2nd half of 2020	I.R.of Iran
MBES Processing (5 days)	2.3	For identified coastal states	RSAHC CB Coordinator	2 nd half of 2020	

5. Challenges faced in the region

- a- There is unsatisfactory means of communication between regional States, which resulted in the absence of frequently updated information regarding the needs of all states in the field of capacity building.
- b- I.R. of Iran had requested during CBSC16 &17 to have a technical implementation visit from Iran, in spite of financing this event by IHO, due to global pandemic of covid -19 we were not able to have this technical visit and was postponed to 2nd half of year 2020.
- c- We have planned some training courses between NIOHC and RSAHC, as joint training programs for the year 2020 namely MSI Training course but this course also due to the same reason was postponed to year 2021. In this regard, some member States in our region have been requesting for more joint training programs between RSAHC and NIOHC, the proposal for which I will raise to the Sub-Committee and NIOHC as well for final decision.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

Through the CB Coordinator for this region, most of the member States have announced their training needs for the next three years. In this manner, all member States of RSAHC could be trained at various levels, in order to ensure a much needed capability on hydrography and nautical cartography, promote familiarity with the methods of conducting hydrographic surveys, and improve safety of navigation through enhanced navigational products. Therefore, in most cases, we could ignore our political differences, and consider safety of navigation in our regional waters as the region's first priority.

7. Conclusions

In order to encourage the involvement of all the member States in the RSA region, and have better achievement in CB programs, we need to have excellent and effective means of communication between all member States (for the time being, we only have sufficient communication between Iran, Pakistan, Oman and sometimes Bahrain). On the other hand, some member States of RSAHC are members of NIOHC as well, and I believe they can have their needs regarding Capacity Building to be met through NIOHC.

Moreover, the IHO Secretariat strongly supports joint CB submissions in the favor of promoted cooperation between the neighbor RHCs and cost-effective use of the limited CB funds. For this reason, I am also keen to have joint CB programs for at least the next 3 years between RSAHC and NIOHC.

Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to note and consider paragraphs 5 and 7 of this report.

Saeid PARIZI
RSAHC CB Coordinator