

**19<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE****Online Meeting, 9-10 June 2021****Paper for the Consideration by CBSC19****MBSHC Report**

<b>Submitted by</b>	:	MBSHC CB Coordinator
<b>Executive Summary</b>	:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at MBSHC.
<b>Related Documents</b>	:	None.
<b>Related Projects</b>	:	None.

**1. Introduction / Background**

A three-year plan for Capacity Building activities at the MBSHC region was approved by the member states during MBSHC21. The plan, which covers the period between 2021-2023, undergoes a review process annually to ensure it still meets regional requirements and/or adopts any changes necessary. It is based on assessing the development phase of each of the coastal states at the MBSHC region (*in line with IHO's three-phase CB approach*) and arranging training activities to build the necessary capabilities to meet SOLAS treaty obligations and to fulfill the needs of Hydrographic Offices with respect to the obligations of both today and future.

**2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States**

The Assessment of CB Phase Stage of MBSHC Coastal States, in accordance with the CB Procedure 11, is provided in the Annex.

**3. Activities completed since CBSC19**

None of the Capacity Building activities planned for 2020 were funded by CBSC so they couldn't be performed.

There were two Capacity Building opportunities that took place earlier this year, both of which were brought to the attention of the Member States. One of them was the virtual trainings carried out by UKHO comprised of Understanding ENC's, Introduction to S-57 and Compiling for Navigational Safety. The other one was IALA Webinars that involved AtoN Monitoring, Buoy Moorings, AtoN Light Characters and AtoN Maintenance. Member States did participate to both.

**4. Activities planned for 2021**

MBSHC region is not really affected by the ongoing pandemic since in 2020 no activity was funded, and for 2021 most of the activities are planned as remote sessions, taking the pandemic into account, and only face-to-face event which is Cartographic Data Management, is planned to be performed in December in the hope of achieved proper level of normalization at that time.

Another activity that is planned to be performed is the Webinar on Satellite-derived Bathymetry. The performance of Satellite-derived Bathymetry has been improved significantly in the last 5-6 years, and with the Ed.6 of S-44 it has become an official mean for hydrographic data. Therefore, the event is moved from 2022 to 2021 to enable Member States to take this opportunity and get involved with this emerging technology. Industry leaders and academia will be brought together for this purpose. France also kindly accepted to take part in the event and share their experience. The intention is to perform this event in the last week of June.

Spain collaborates with other Regional Hydrographic Commissions through seminars, courses and workshops delivered in Spanish. Spain, also, carries out CAT-B & CAT-A Hydrographic Courses for Spanish-speaking foreign students at the Hydrographic School of IHM (*a.k.a. Alejandro Malaspina*). The applications are through the Spanish Defense Attaché Offices.

Italy continues supporting Lebanon, the newest member of our region, concerning surveying and charting responsibilities. Turkey also is in talks with Lebanon Authorities regarding their national capacity building needs.

## **5. Challenges faced in the region**

MBSHC Capacity Building Activities have contributed to the effort of compensating for the gap between the Member States, in terms of both technology and experience. Yet, there still is a need for continued capacity building, and consequently for capacity building funds.

Ongoing pandemic and measures taken against it together with the lack of funds of CBSC to cover evergrowing Capacity Building needs of all the RHCs highlight the need to develop e-learning capabilities which in turn will enable capacity building activities to reach a wider audience in a more cost effective way.

## **6. Achievements and lessons learned**

Lebanon steadily improves its capabilities in Hydrography and Cartography, with the support of the Member States and IHO CB programmes. The support of the Member States to Lebanon shortly after the Beirut Explosion in 2020 was also a success within the region worth mentioning.

## **7. Conclusions**

MBSHC Region countries benefit significantly from CB Activities, and lately, focus and requirements have drifted to long courses, mostly CAT-B hydrography and CAT-B cartography. The remaining short course requests, on the other hand, have switched to Phase 2 & Phase 3.

## 8. Actions required of CBSC

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report.
- b. take any action consider appropriate.



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Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States.