

**20<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE  
IHO-CBSC20  
Denpasar (Indonesia), 1-3 June 2022**

**Paper for the Consideration by CBSC20**

**RSAHC Report**

<b><i>Submitted by:</i></b>	RSAHC CB Coordinator
<b><i>Executive Summary:</i></b>	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at RSAHC.
<b><i>Related Documents:</i></b>	RSAHC CB Plan 2022- 2024
<b><i>Related Projects:</i></b>	

**1. Introduction / Background**

RSAHC Region comprises of 12 Coastal States which 9 of them are the Member States: Bahrain, IR of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and 3 of them are Associate Members (France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America). Moreover, there are a number of observers, such as Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), and Middle East Navigation Service (MENAS), International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services LLC (AMNAS).

The Chair of the RSAHC is Captain Khalid AL JABRI (Oman) at present, and as of today, the position of vice-chair is vacant.

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

See Annex A (CBSC20-08.6I)

**3. Activities completed since CBSC19**

- Compiling for Navigational Safety from 20-21 January 2022 as a VTC platform, in which RSAHC Member States participated.
- Introduction to S-57 conducted on 25 January 2022 as a VTC platform, in which RSAHC Member States participated.
- Understanding ENCs conducted on 26 January 2022 as a VTC platform, in which RSAHC Member States participated.

**4. Activities planned for 2022**

- IHO - NIPPON FOUNDATION GEOMAC PROJECT – SUCCESSFUL NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 13TH AND 14TH COURSES, for which Mr. Mohammed AL-AAMRI, from Oman was accepted from the RSAHC region.
- Category “B” Hydrographic Survey Program, sponsored by Republic of Korea, 25 July 2022 to 09 December 2022, for which we hope at least one participant from the RSAHC Region will be accepted.

- Technical Visit from I.R. of Iran, which will be done by IHO/IALA on 2nd. half of 2022.
- MSI Course, which we intend to be conduct as a joint activity between RSAHC and NIOHC region in November 2022 .

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

As you are all aware, our region is one in which political issues leave a direct impact on the outcome of RSAHC activities and decisions. In our region, usually 3 or 4 Member States are highly active in IHO programs, and some do not participate actively in any programs at all, while some others prefer to work with adjacent regions (some Member States of RSAHC are members of NIOHC as well, and have their needs regarding Capacity Building met through that commission). That's why it is almost impossible to have integrated and up-to-date information from all IHO activities in the region. In fact, the challenges mentioned in the RSAHC Report 2020 still remain and affect the region. I hope with the chairmanship of Oman as the RSAHC Chair, we could achieve better cooperation between all the regional Member States.

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

A number of the Member States have announced their training needs for the next three years through the CB Coordinator for this region, and 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.

In line with the efforts of IHO to economize costs for the CBSC program, the RSAHC has negotiated and planned a number of activities and trainings, to be conducted jointly with the NIOHC as the adjacent region. It is hoped that the planned activities, as mentioned in the RSAHC 3-Year Work Plan for CBSC (2022-24), will be conducted successfully, and result in the projected outcomes.

## **7. Conclusions:**

With the election of Oman as the RSAHC Chair at present, we hope to encourage the involvement of all the Member States in the RSA region, and have better achievement in CB programs, because it is necessary to have excellent and effective means of communication between all Member States.

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.

## **8. Actions required of CBSC:**

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. take note of this update of RSAHC CB 3-Year Work Plan, and
- b. take any actions considered appropriate.

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