

**21st MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC21
Tokyo, Japan 7-9 June 2023**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC21

SWPHC Report

Submitted by:	SWPHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWPHC.
Related Documents:	SWPHC CB Plan 2023-2025
Related Projects:	Hydrographic Leaders Programme

1. Introduction / Background

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are geographically remote and fragmented; they face a major development challenge in achieving safe, reliable, and efficient connectivity within the region and with the rest of the world. The maritime sector plays a key role in supporting economic growth and development in PICTs by facilitating trade and commerce and by improving people's ability to travel for health, education, employment, and to interact with other communities.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

The table in Annex A provides an assessment of Capacity Building for the Pacific Islands and Territories in the region, in accordance with the CB Procedure 11.

3. Activities completed since CBSC20

- Seabed 2030/CSB Webinar #4; June 2022
- U.S. Navy CAT B – Indonesian Naval Officer graduated; August 2022
- S-100 Workshop #2; October 2022
- Hydrographic Governance Gap Analysis
- (CBSC18 P-07) Technical Workshop on Hydrographic Governance. Held in conjunction with SWPHC20; February 2023.
- Hydrographic Leaders Programme (HLP) Conclusion; February 2023
- Launched CB Strategy Working Group (CB WG)

4. Activities planned for 2023 & 2024

- CB WG to build and conduct a regional capacity/capability audit
- CB WG to develop a comprehensive 3-5 year CB Strategy
- Assessment of HLP and Steering Group discussion on way forward with future cohort
- (CBSC18 P-06) MSI Regional Workshop; Fiji July 25-27, 2023
- U.S. Navy CAT B – Indonesian Naval Officer; expected graduation August 2023
- Request for CBSC re-approval for Workshop on Disaster Response (CBSC19 P-05) to be held in conjunction with SWPHC21; February 2024

5. Challenges faced in the region

- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region and associated cost of regional travel
- Internet bandwidth limitations
- Encouraging PICTs to assume leadership roles and engage with broader RHC issues

6. Achievements and lessons learned

- a. The inaugural Hydrographic Leaders Programme concluded with a cohort capstone presentation and graduation ceremony at SWPHC20 in February 2023.
- b. Virtual events, while sufficient to carry on routine RHC business, are not effective in communicating complex capacity building efforts, many of which rely on the forging and growth of lasting personal and professional relationships. The SWPHC strategy of preceding its annual meeting with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial.
- c. Our Hydrographic Governance Workshop in February reinforced that there is no equal substitute to face to face interaction. Deliberate, proactive, and routine communication between PICTs; PICTs and their PCAs; and all to the Commission is the life blood of a strong and unified region.
- d. National Hydrographic Coordinating Committee can be a very useful tool in managing national priorities, resources, and creating efficiencies. However, the NHCC must have clear terms of reference, must meet regularly, and may benefit from future PCA observation and participation.
- e. It is becoming more and more apparent that hydrography can be considered one of several spokes in a wheel of national spatial data infrastructure. By incorporating hydrographic data/capability with other sources of spatial data investment, the challenge of trying to market and fund a hydrography program by itself, could be eliminated. There may be more governmental understanding or willingness to include hydro as a piece of a larger national spatial data initiative.
- f. A more proactive approach to future capacity building is necessary for the betterment of our member states and region. Thus, a CB Working Group has been established to enable this.

7. Conclusions:

SWPHC, in collaboration with other international, regional and bi-lateral partners, is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. Consider the SWPHC request to re-approve the former (CBSC19 P-05) Workshop on Disaster Response until 2024 (icw SWPHC21).
- b. note the report
- c. note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals
- d. take any action consider appropriate.

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Annex A: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)