

10. ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)

1. Chair

Captain Muhammad KHALID: Pakistan, Feb. 2017 – Feb. 2019
Alireza KHOJASTEH: IR of Iran, since Feb. 2019

Vice Chair

Alireza KHOJASTEH: IR of Iran, Feb. 2017 – Feb. 2019
Hamdan Al YAHMADI: Oman, since Feb. 2019

2. Membership

Members: Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

Associate Members: France, Iraq, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers: Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Middle East Navigation Service (MENAS), International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services LLC (AMNAS)

3. Meetings

7th RSAHC Conference	Muscat , Oman	20 - 22 Feb. 2017
8th RSAHC Conference	Islamabad, Pakistan	18 - 20 Feb. 2019

4. Agenda Items

Main activities of RSAHC are the progress in developing the INT chart schemes, ENC production, MSI, inter-state co-operation under the capacity-building program, and other activities and issues as decided by the Commission, including National Reports, Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the RSAHC (IHO Publication C-55). However, this Commission tends to work according to a standing agenda with modifications for new issues as they arise.

The agenda for RSAHC8 Meeting includes:

1. Review of action items from the previous meetings (RSAHC 7).
2. Report by IHO Secretariat.
3. National reports (major items and highlights only) by members and associate members.
4. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the RSAHC (IHO Publication C-55).
5. Report by INT Chart Co-ordinator (IR of Iran).
6. Report by ENC Regional Co-ordinator (IR of Iran) – Progress on the implementation of ENC coverage and other issues.
7. Promulgation of Navigational Warnings with NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS. (Pakistan)
8. Capacity-building status and report by Capacity-building Coordinator (IR of Iran).
9. Relevant International organizations' Report, including GEBCO, CSB, etc.

10. Presentations by Industrial Partners (ixblue, SevenCs, Leica GeoSystems).

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

- a) The recent reduction of Capacity-building funds will cause the states in this region encounter reduced CB activities, which are urgently required in order to promote the skills of the hydrographers in the region to the level of other RHCs. It must be kept in mind that since the last RSAHC Meeting, where Mr. Jeff Bryant resigned from his position as RSAHC Capacity-Building Coordinator, there has been no representative to act as the CB Coordinator for RSAHC Region. The result was not being able to take advantage of our suggested CB programs for the year 2018.
- b) While most communication in the region is conducted through correspondence such as emails, there are still have numerous problems in the way of robust, safe and permanent communication between Member States to allow better cooperation within the region. As IHO has been informed, it has been observed in the past few years that Member States of RSAHC have limited participation in regional hydrographic activities.
- c) Certain overlaps in ENC cells between Iran and UK, Iran and Oman, as well as between Pakistan (Region I) and India (Region J).
- d) Following the introduction of new standards such as S-100 series and their implementation in a near future, all the Member States in Region I will need proper trainings to prepare accordingly.

6. Achievements/Outputs/Conclusions

- a) IR of Iran has been selected as CB Coordinator of the RSAHC Region in 2019.
- b) A joint technical visit of Iran has been arranged by IHO and IALA for the second half of 2020. This visit will have positive feedbacks and contribution to capacity-building efforts within the region.
- c) A merger between RSAHC and NIOHC could strengthen the regional activities and engagement, since the regions are adjacent and a few states (i.e. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia) are already members of both RHCs. In the year 2019, there was a joint MSI CB training, and for the year 2020, there will be another joint training course under the CB program.
- d) Since the previous Commission Meeting (RSAHC 7) in February 2017, we have better ENC coverage in the region, which in turn means better coverage of un-surveyed areas in RSAHC region.
- e) Iraq is the only state in the region that is not member to IHO. Hence, the IHO and all Member States of RSAHC region are encouraging Iraq to become a full member of the IHO.
- f) The RSAHC ICCWG has successfully maintained the INT Chart Catalogue for Region I.
- g) There has been a high level of industry participation in RSAHC meetings with ample opportunities to share experiences and contribute to discussions.

7. Actions required of the Assembly

The Assembly is invited to note the report of the RSAHC.