

THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
REPORT TO THE 13TH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL
COORDINATION COMMITTEE

- 1. Chair:** Rear Admiral YN Jayarathna – Sri Lanka
Vice-Chair: Rear Admiral Agung Prasetiawan– Indonesia

2. Membership:

Members: Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom.

Associate Members: Australia, France, Oman, Mauritius, Seychelles, USA.

Observers: Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sudan

3. Meetings:

Extraordinary NIOHC VTC Meeting (10 December 2020)

Next Meeting:

NIOHC 20 VTC meeting scheduled from 13-15 July 2021

4. Current working groups:

- a) North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Statutes Working Group (NIOHC-SWG)
- b) North Indian Ocean Charting Coordination Working Group (NICCWG)

5. Status of IRCC actions

No.	Action (Agenda item)	Deadline	Remarks
IRCC 12/2	Member States to review the paper on the Future of paper Charts and provide feedback on it.	IRCC13	Completed
IRCC 12/4	RHCs to implement the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.	IRCC13	Completed
IRCC 12/14	Support the modification of the current "RHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator" to a joint "RHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator" and provide the identification.	IRCC13	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action IRCC 12/11 (subject of SDI/MSDI/MSP) and IRCC 12/12 (CSB and Seabed 2030) were included in the Agenda of next NIOHC meeting scheduled from 13-15 July 2021. • All Member States were encouraged to act as per IRCC 12 actions through NIOHC letter No: NIOHC 20-08 dated 04th November 2020. 			

6. **Agenda Items:**

The NIOHC meetings operate a standing agenda with modifications for new issues of regional importance as they arise. The principal agenda items discussed during *Extraordinary NIOHC VTC Meeting* were:

- Fixing of dates for NIOHC 20 meeting in Colombo in 3rd Quarter 2021.
- An update by the NIOHC Statutes WG.
- Overview on NIOHC CB activity plan for year 2021 and review of three year CB Work Plan for NIOHC.
- Nomination of NIOHC Coordinator for IHO CSBWG and Seabed 2030.
- Claim for status of Member State by Republic of Mauritius submitted on 02nd December 2020.

7. **NIOHC cooperation with other organizations:**

The extraordinary NIOHC VTC meeting was conducted only among Member States considering the purpose of the meeting. However, the NIOHC is continued to engage with relevant International organisations and industry stakeholders and their active contribution is expected during the next meeting.

8. **Conclusions:**

The extraordinary NIOHC meeting was arranged mainly to decide holding of NIOHC 20 in year 2021 and following were the highlights of the meeting.

- All MS agreed to hold NIOHC 20 from 13-15 July 2021 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Progress of NIOHC statutes by interim chair SWG.
- Overview of CB plan for NIOHC
- Conduct of online training modules among MS.
- Claim for status of Member State by Republic of Mauritius shall be discussed during NIOHC 20.

9. **Achievements and lessons learned:**

Conduct of "Learn through each other" monthly VTC training program among MS was a significant achievement. Programs were based on important topics related to Hydrography in order to clarify grey areas with the help of expertise of NIOHC MS. Four well attended VTC modules completed up to now on topics of Seabed 2030, CSB, MSDI and Satellite Bathymetry from January to April 2021.

It is evident that such discussions on common issues of hydrography are extremely beneficial on enhancing hydrographic knowledge. All four VTC meetings conducted were well attended by MS and participants were engaged with fruitful discussions towards improving hydrographic and nautical cartographic affairs in the region.

10. Actions required from IRCC 13:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Take any other action considered appropriate.

Rear Admiral YN Jayarathna
Chief Hydrographer of the Sri Lanka Navy &
Chairman North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)