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| **Annex B** **CIRCULAR LETTER No 2/2024****27th February 2024** |

**EAHC Statutes Review during the 9th EAHC Meeting 2023**

**Locality (Article I.1)**

**Recommendation -** The East Asia Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") shall be placed within the framework of the International Hydrographic Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the IHO"), and shall be a regional hydrographic commission which shall be composed of the Hydrographers of the countries bordering the Northwest Pacific Ocean, Japan Sea, Yellow Sea, Eastern China Sea, South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Malacca Strait, Northeaster Indian Ocean and adjacent waters defined as Region ‘K’ (hereinafter referred to as "the region") in IHO INT charting scheme.

**Decision –** Meeting agreed with this recommendation. EAHC Secretariat will circulate the amendments to all member states. (9th EAHC Minutes Of Meeting).

**Nature of the Commission (Article I.2)**

**Recommendation -** The Commission shall have an advisory, scientific, and technological character; it shall not exert any authority over the Hydrographic Services or Institutions responsible for hydrography in the member countries and its activities shall not include matters concerning international political matters.

**Decision –** Meeting agreed with this recommendation. EAHC Secretariat will circulate the amendments to all member states. (9th EAHC Minutes Of Meeting).

**Admission of Membership (Article II.2)**

**Recommendation -** Membership of the Commission shall be open for accession by all other Hydrographers who fulfill the requirements mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 1.

**Decision –** No agreements were made for this article. (9th EAHC Minutes of Meeting).

Request further comments provided from MS.

**Timeframe of the Next Session Conference (Article III.2)**

**Recommendation -** The time of the Conference shall be decided upon by the Chair after consultation with the Members. The Conference shall be held in the country to which the Chair belongs and inform at least 2-3 months before the Conference.

**Decision –** Meeting agreed with this recommendation (With the three-monthly notification). EAHC Secretariat will circulate the amendments to all member states.(9th EAHC Minutes Of Meeting).

- The time of the Conference shall be decided upon by the Chair after consultation with the Members. The Conference shall be held in the country to which the Chair belongs and inform at least three months before the Conference.

**Unanimity (Article VII.1)**

**Recommendation -** Suggest maintaining the original article.

**- Conclusions** shall be arrived at by unanimous agreement of the Conference. Such conclusions, unanimously agreed, shall be part of the Record of the Conference.

**Decision –** Meeting agreed with this recommendation and will remain to the original articles mentioned in the statutes. EAHC Secretariat will circulate the amendments to all member states. (9th EAHC Minutes Of Meeting).

**Unanimity (Article X.4)**

**Recommendation** - Suggest maintaining the original article.

- These Statutes may be amended. Such amendments shall become effective only by the unanimous decision of the Commission.

**Decision** – Meeting agreed with this recommendation and will remain to the original articles mentioned in the statutes. EAHC Secretariat will circulate the amendments to all member states. (9th EAHC Minutes Of Meeting).

**Proposal on Article V.10 about Associate Members**

**Recommendation –**

1. Other Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization outside the region may become Associate Members who accept the Statutes of the EAHC, if they contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography including training, nautical charting, and nautical information in the region of the EAHC. Their applications shall be considered by the Conference mentioned in Article III. The admission of these applications to the Commission shall be decided unanimously by the Members of the Commission.
2. Associate Members shall have the same rights and obligations as the Members of the Commission, except the right to vote or be elected Chair.

**Decision** – EAHC Secretariat will circulate the article on Associate Membership to all the members states for their comments. (9th EAHC Minutes of Meeting).