

From: **Tim Lowe CBE**  
**UKHO Chief Executive,**  
**and SAIHC Chair**



**SAIHC Letter No. 1/2020**

17 April 2020

**To:** Members, Associate Members, Observers and Industry Partners of the IHO  
Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

**Subject:** **Handover of Chair, SAIHC**

Dear SAIHC Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you, your families and your teams safe and well at this very stressful time. At our meeting in Cape Town last year you very kindly re-elected me as your Chairman, a position that I have been both proud and honoured to fulfil for the past 2 years. I was very much looking forward to Chairing our next meeting in Mauritius in September (Covid19 permitting). However, as many of you are aware I have now taken over as the Chief Executive at the UKHO and RAdm Peter Sparkes has joined as my Deputy and as National Hydrographer. It was my intent to retain Chairmanship of SAIHC however the recent pandemic and other factors have brought me to the sad conclusion that my focus should be on my broader responsibilities and that very reluctantly I should stand down as your Chairman.

It is with a mixture of emotions (sadness at standing down but knowing that I am handing over to an excellent relief) that I propose that RADM Peter Sparkes assumes the Chairmanship role with immediate effect. I have consulted with the Vice Chair and she is in agreement that this is the best course of action. I have very much enjoyed being part of the SAIHC community and working with you over the past 4 years. As I handover I would like to thank you all, members, associate members, observers and our industry partners for your support and contribution to our region and specifically thank Capt Theo Stokes SAN for his support and commitment initially as Chair and then as Vice Chair and more recently Dr (Mrs) R. Y. Moorghen for her support as our new Vice Chair. I must also offer specific thanks to our industry partners whose support and engagement has enabled our success over the past few years. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all over the past 4 years and I wish you and the region every success in the future.

As we all, both personally, nationally and as a community meet the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic I very much hope that you, your families and teams remain safe and well. I look forward to catching up with you all in the not too distant future – perhaps in Monaco later in the year.

Yours sincerely

Information : IHO Secretariat