

**19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMITTEE (SAIHC19)  
Mauritius, 28 - 31 August**

<b>Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023</b>	
Task 3.2.1.11	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: SAIHC – Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Committee

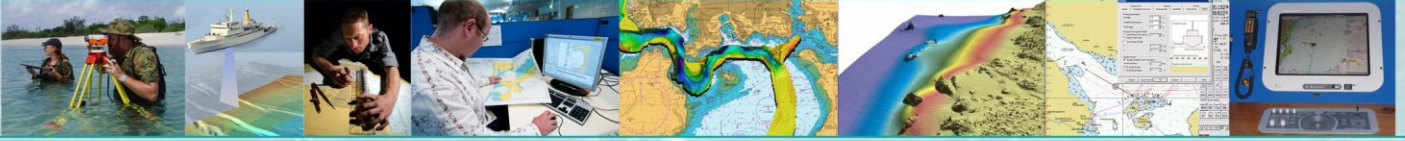
The 19th Meeting of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Committee (SAIHC19) was held from 29 to 31 August 2023 in Mauritius as a hybrid event and seminar on awareness of hydrography was held on 28th August 2023 prior to the SAIHC19 plenary meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Peter Sparkes, National Hydrographer of the UK. A total of 67 participants from eleven IHO Member States (Angola, France, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States), NGO and industry experts attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Assistant Director Yong BAEK.

The meeting was opened by Mr Mohammad Salim Ferhat Joomun, Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning, Republic of Mauritius. Commander Ankush Sachdeva, Officer-in-Charge of Mauritius Hydrographic Service, extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed gratitude to the attendees for their significant presence. He underscored the importance of a conference such as SAIHC as an opportune moment for the region to reestablish connections and engage in discussions on the topics of mutual interest, with the aim of working together to achieve common goals.



*Opening remarks at the SAIHC19 Meeting*



SAIHC, as one of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, plays an important role in implementing the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) work programme and strategic plans in the Western Indian Ocean Region. The aim of SAIHC is to assess and assist in sustainable development of the Member States of the region towards coordinated hydrographic activities, meet the objectives of IHO, address the obligations under Safety of Life at Sea, United Nations Conventions on laws of the Sea and focus on capacity building.

IHO Assistant Director Yong BAEK welcomed all attendees at the conference. He emphasized the critical significance of the capacity building in ensuring the achievement of our goals and also provided insights into the digital trends that the IHO community should be prepared for, along with the challenges that the Regional Hydrographic Commission should prioritize in the coming years.

The Commission discussed the progress of SAIHC statutes review, noting that the 2022 version of the statutes had been circulated on 21 June 2023, to allow members to provide comments or propose amendments. Since no comments or suggestions were received from members, the 2022 version of SAIHC statutes was approved during the meeting.

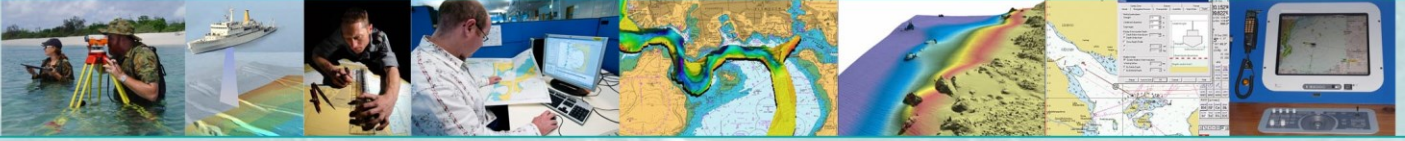
Assistant Director Yong BAEK provided an overview of the IHO report, which encompassed the Assembly 3 report held in Monaco from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The key highlights from the IHO report include:

- IHO Work Programme and Budget for 2023 approved and the three-year Work Programme and Budget 2024-2026 endorsed.
- New ECDIS performance standards introducing S-100 approved by IMO
- New IHO Resolution on S-100
- Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS
- IHO 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly Decisions
- Status of P-5 and C-55 on SAIHC region.

The Commission addressed the challenges and preparations related to S-100 products, with a particular focus on the S-100 implementation roadmap. The UK expressed that they are aiming to generate full S-100 capability by 2026, however they realize this will be a challenge. France emphasized its commitment to prioritize the production of S-100 products, with a particular emphasis on S-124. It was agreed that the UK and France would collaborate to create a table detailing the data sets being produced by Member States.

Member States submitted comprehensive reports on their national activities, including updates on INT charts and ENC productions, capacity building programmes, and preparation of S-100 since the last SAIHC18 meeting. Furthermore, during the presentation of the regional MSDIWG the responsibility of developing Terms of Reference (TOR), with due consideration for gender-inclusive language and support for S-100.

Commander Theunissen, South Africa introduced the SAIHC Disaster Response Framework, which was developed during the SAIHC18 meeting. He requested members to review the



framework and asked all MSs to provide their contact details. The Commission agreed to establish a SAIHC social media aimed at facilitating smoother communication and information sharing among members, including the hydrographic society.

The meeting elected Rear Admiral Angus Essenhigh (UK) as the Chair and Mr. Mohummad Shamad Ayoob Saab (Mauritius) as the Vice Chair. The next SAIHC20 meeting, hosted by the UK, is scheduled to take place in Kenya in 2024.



*Group photo at the SAIHC19 Meeting*