



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)

AND

**THE PORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA
(PMAWCA)**



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1. Parties

This document constitutes an agreement between the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa (PMAWCA).

2. Background

The IHO and PMAWCA each recognises that the other is an international organisation with responsibilities for activities serving related professional constituencies.

IHO is an intergovernmental organisation of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 75 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices' activities, standardisation of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavor, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. The International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) is the secretariat of the IHO.

Established in 1972 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), PMAWCA is an intergovernmental sub-regional economic organisation and a Specialised Organ of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA). Today, PMAWCA stands as the senior sub-regional institution in West and Central Africa and her activities cover a coastline of approximately 95, 000 kilometers. PMAWCA presently has twenty-three (23) regular members which are principally port authorities and two (2) associate members who are maritime related companies. PMAWCA's objectives include seeking the improvement, coordination and standardization of equipment and services of member ports, enhance inter-port cooperation with a view to facilitating development of the activities of members, establish and maintain relationships with all transportation undertakings, institutions, associations, international organizations and governments for the study of matters of interest to members and also provide a forum for members of the Association to exchange views on common problems.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a regular liaison between the two organisations to improve and consolidate the hydrographic capabilities of Ports Members of the PMAWCA through the co-ordination of training and technical assistance initiatives.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organisations agree to endeavour to increase their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:



1. Regular contact is to be established between the Secretariats of the two organisations in order to identify initiatives of common interest and to agree on the appropriate procedures for the development of specific actions; establishing their objectives, programs and control mechanisms.
2. Each organisation should inform the other of its work programme to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate. PMAWCA, should be invited as observer to participate to the meetings of the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions, such as EAHC and SAIHC. On these occasions, it could be an opportunity to present an overview of global regional maritime requirements, developments and projects, identified or carried out by PMAWCA and MOWCA.
3. Both organisations should identify opportunities to organise specialised seminars, workshops or courses under joint sponsorship.
4. Each organisation should invite a representative from the other organisation to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organisation can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organisations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organisations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter in force upon the date of signature of both parties, and shall be valid until IHO or PMAWCA proposes changes to it. Each organisation has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organisations.

Any party may at any time denounce this agreement informing the other party by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt. The denouncement shall become effective three months after the date of receipt of the registered letter.

Date: 12/05/2006

Date: 28/4/2006

On behalf of IHO

On behalf of PMAWCA

(signed)

(signed)

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