



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

The International Hydrographic Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, being aware of the growing need for close-co-operation in activities of common interest to both Organisations and their Member States, agree this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Parties

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is an intergovernmental organisation of a consultative and technical nature established in 1921 and comprising over 80 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include facilitating the international coordination of the efforts of national hydrographic offices, standardization 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. The permanent secretariat of the IHO, known as the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), is directed by an elected committee (the Directing Committee) comprising the President and two fellow Directors. The IHO has several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. The IHO has also encouraged the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to provide focus on regional issues. The RHCs comprise Full Members who are IHO Member States within a region and Associate Members who are non-IHO Member States within the Region or IHO Member States outside the region that contribute to the aims of the IHO programmes through their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information in the region. The South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) provides a regional focus on the IHO objectives in the region of the Central and South West Pacific Ocean. Other RHCs covering parts of the Pacific region are the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC), the US Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC), the Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), and the South East Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SEPHC).

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is an intergovernmental organisation that provides technical and policy advice and assistance to its Pacific Island members. SPC was established in 1947 and has 26 member countries and territories. SPC's vision for the region is a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way. SPC provides services primarily in the form of technical assistance, training and research. The focus of SPC's work changes over time in response to evolving regional needs and regional collaborative arrangements with other organisations. Amongst its current organisational structure SPC has two Divisions that are relevant in relation to this MoU. Firstly, the Economic Development Division (EDD), which pulls together the four key drivers of economic growth – transport, energy, infrastructure and communication. The EDD includes the Regional Maritime Programme. As resources become available, the

division will expand to cover infrastructure issues including ports.. Secondly, the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC). This division focuses on issues such as water and sanitation, disaster management, seabed resources, maritime boundary delimitation and monitoring of ocean processes.

Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for active liaison and cooperation between the IHO and SPC to ensure the efficient and effective development and coordination of hydrographic and nautical charting programmes in accordance with the obligations of international treaties and to promote the widespread use of hydrographic data collected by the two organisations or their members for the benefit of safety of navigation and life at sea, protection of the marine environment, national infrastructure development, coastal zone management, marine exploration and resource exploitation, maritime boundary delimitation and policing, maritime defence and security, and natural disaster management.

Scope of Activity

The IHO and the SPC, through their respective secretariats and through their relevant subordinate, or associated bodies such as RHCs, shall coordinate their activities as far as is possible to address those topics set out in the Annex to this MoU and any others that may be mutually agreed from time to time.

Recognition and Status

Representatives of IHO and SPC may attend as Observers, and actively participate without the right to vote in meetings of each others respective governing bodies and of those subsidiary bodies at which subjects of specific interest to both organisations are being discussed.

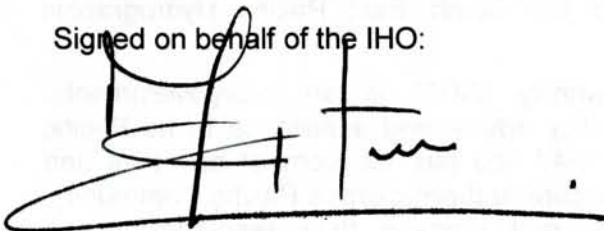
Financial Commitment

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

Legal Status

This MoU does not create a legal obligation between the two organisations which will maintain their mutual independence. This MoU is valid until IHO or SPC proposes its termination. Each organisation may propose changes to this MoU at any time, in writing. Any change comes into effect upon the written consent of both organisations. This MoU can be terminated at any time for any reason by one party writing to the other party, signifying its intention to withdraw from the terms of the MoU.

Signed on behalf of the IHO:



Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President of the IHB Directing Committee

8 April 2011

Signed on behalf of the SPC:



Dr. Jimmie Rodgers
Director-General, SPC

29 April 2011

ANNEX
TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
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Scope of Activities

In pursuing the objectives of the MoU between the IHO and the SPC, the following steps will be taken, among others:

- Maintain regular contact between the two organisations in order to ensure a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest.
- Each organisation to ensure that the other is aware of its activities that may be of common interest and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate.
- Each organisation to identify opportunities to maximize the efficient collection of hydrographic data by furthering the understanding of data requirements, data holdings and future data collection plans. In this regard, for SPC the SOPAC Division will take the lead; for IHO the RHCs are the relevant inter-organisational bodies, which will be assisted by the secretariat of the IHO as required.
- SPC, with advice from members countries and other relevant regional bodies will liaise and cooperate with IHO and national hydrographic offices and authorities with regard to hydrographic and nautical charting requirements and priorities including regional capacity building, hydrographic surveying and charting requirements, the introduction of electronic charting and e-Navigation, and the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information.
- Strengthen and broaden reciprocal co-operation, particularly with respect to individual State obligations and requirements resulting from the provisions of the UN Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Encourage all States in the region to join and actively participate in the appropriate Regional Hydrographic Commission.
- Actively encourage all States in the region to join the IHO.
- Co-operate in the formulation of proposals for, and the execution of, technical cooperation projects having components which fall within the competence and the expertise of the respective Organisations, including advance exchange of relevant information and the formulation of other measures required to implement the projects.
- Promote training, education and capacity building in all spheres of surveys, mapping and charting of mutual interests by enhancing the awareness of the Member States of both Organisations to the importance of co-operation in the use of training facilities, research institutions, vessels, data, and the expertise and experience of personnel, especially to the benefit of developing States.
- Consider the possibility of temporary exchange of personnel.
- Hold periodic meetings between the SPC Director General and the President or other Director of the IHB Directing Committee on the above matters.