

## 9<sup>th</sup> Inter Regional Coordinating Committee (IRCC) Meeting



Group Photo – The 9<sup>th</sup> IRCC Meeting Participants

The 9<sup>th</sup> Inter Regional Coordinating Committee Meeting (IRCC) was held in Paramaribo, Suriname from 12 to 14 June 2017. The meeting was hosted by the Maritime Authority Suriname (MAS) and chaired by Dr. Parry Oei from Maritime Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore. A reception was organised on the 11<sup>th</sup> night to welcome all participants and to allow for social interaction and networking prior to the meeting. During the welcoming remarks, Mr Michel Amafo, MAS Director expressed his gratitude for having IRCC meeting in Suriname. He also provided a brief information on the role and function of the organisation and its hydrographic surveying and charting services capabilities. Suriname coastline is short and it only has river ports. Most ports are located deep inside the riverine area which makes hydrographic surveying task is very challenging as the river is narrow and shallow with quite a large tidal range.

The opening session of 9<sup>th</sup> IRCC meeting was officiated by the Chairman of MAS Supervisory Board, Mr.Theo Vishnudatt. The meeting was attended by 34 participants representing 24 countries and regional commission. The Chair began with setting the directions for the work of IRCC with highlights of strengthening the Maritime Safety Information (MSI) infrastructures in all coastal States, the importance of the National Hydrographic Coordinating Committees (NHCC) in developing countries and the establishment of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI). He enlightened that the work of the IRCC in this direction need to be consistent and sustainable.

Among the discussion is to review of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, reports by the Chair and Secretariat, reports by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) as well as IRCC Subordinate Bodies, the outcomes of 1<sup>st</sup> IHO Assembly, and several proposals from the Member States and other bodies.

Dato' Fadzilah, EAHC Chair reported the EAHC Capacity Building Programme as well as the Training for Trainers project, the production of ENC's, the successful conduct of Technical Visits to Timor Leste and Cambodia, and the establishment of new Working Group on Marine Spatial Database Infrastructures (MSDI) and Task Group on Strategic Team Advance Roadmap (STAR). Admiral Fadzilah also informed the meeting that the new edition of SCS ENC was temporarily suspended due to some naming issues between few member states of EAHC. The suspension was announced through a circular letter in May 2017. The way forward of the SCS ENC will be discussed in the coming CHC of EAHC meeting scheduled in August 2017 and the outcome will be announced later.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair invited the participants to consider nominating a candidate for Vice-Chair. Mr. Thomas Dehling, Chair of the CBSC, Germany was nominated and the Committee re-elected Dr. Parry Oei and elected Mr. Thomas Dehling as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively by acclamation.

The Chair invited the meeting to confirm the dates and venue for IRCC10, IRCC11 and IRCC12. The following decision was then agreed:

- IRCC10: 4-6 June 2018 – Goa, India
- IRCC11: May / June 2019 – Italy
- IRCC12: May / June 2020 – Poland

The Chair concluded the meeting thanking the Members and Observers for their contribution. He expressed, on behalf of all participants, his sincere gratitude to Director of MAS and the staff of MAS for the quality of the meeting organization. The meeting was adjourned on 14 June 2017 and followed by a visit to Maritime Authority Suriname and to the Maritime Museum.



Maritime Authority Suriname Visit



At the Maritime Museum