

## **EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION TECHNICAL VISIT TO CAMBODIA 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Apr 2017**

Phnom Penh, 5 Apr - The National Hydrographic Centre (NHC) of Malaysia has led the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Technical Visit delegation to Phnom Penh from 3 - 5 Apr 17. The objectives of the visit is to enhance technical cooperation in the region and to encourage non-Member States to join the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and EAHC.



Arrival of EAHC delegation to Inlands Waterways and Transport Department

The delegation was led by RAdm Dato' Fadzilah bin Mohd Salleh, the EAHC Chairman together with Japan Chief Hydrographer, Dr. Araka Sengoku and Japan Deputy Director of Charting Division, Mr. Kenichi Noguchi. Other members were Lt Cdr Ahmad Rizuan RMN, Head of Hydrography and Lt Fedzrin Iswandi RMN from NHC. The meeting was held at the Inlands Waterways and Transport Department headed by Mr. Chan Dara, Director General of Inland Waterways-Maritime Transport and Port together with relevant directors of the organisation.



EAHC and Cambodian Delegation

The discussion covers on introduction, set up and role of the IHO and EAHC, however it was focus more on benefits and advantages of being member of the two organisations especially on capacity building in hydrographic surveying and charting professionalism. The Cambodian government was informed that the capacity building assistance could only be extended if Cambodia become member of the organisation. The Cambodian delegation acknowledged the important and benefits of being part of IHO members and request the EAHC delegation to help and provide with more information to assist them in pursuing the matter to the higher authority. The discussion was concluded with very fruitful and encouraging outcomes.



EAHC Chairman explained the role of EAHC

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port (PPAP) which is 30 kilometers away inland from the city centre. It lies approximately 70 kilometers from the Vietnam-Cambodia border and 210 kilometers from the sea entrance into Mekong River. The PPAP is one of the international ports of Cambodia constructed and operational in 2012. The port is under the supervision of Ministry of Public Works and Transport, while the financial matters is under the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The management informed the meeting that currently there is no proper navigational charts available from the entrance of the river into the port. The ships navigation into the port is solely relying on the guidance and local knowledge of the pilot. A small hydrographic unit established by the port is limited with a basic hydrographic capabilities and only responsible within the port limit. The management supported and emphasized that hydrographic survey and nautical charting are very important matters that will help to promote the port to the international level.

From the discussion, the port strongly supported Cambodian government to join the IHO to seek assistance in enhancing the national hydrographic and charting capabilities thus it will help to provide an up to date and modern hydrographic survey and charting of the navigable channels from entrance to the port as well as Cambodian national waters. Being an international port, the dissemination of information is very important to encourage more shipping call in to the port which will enhance the economy of the country.



EAHC delegation with Phnom Penh Autonomous Port Management

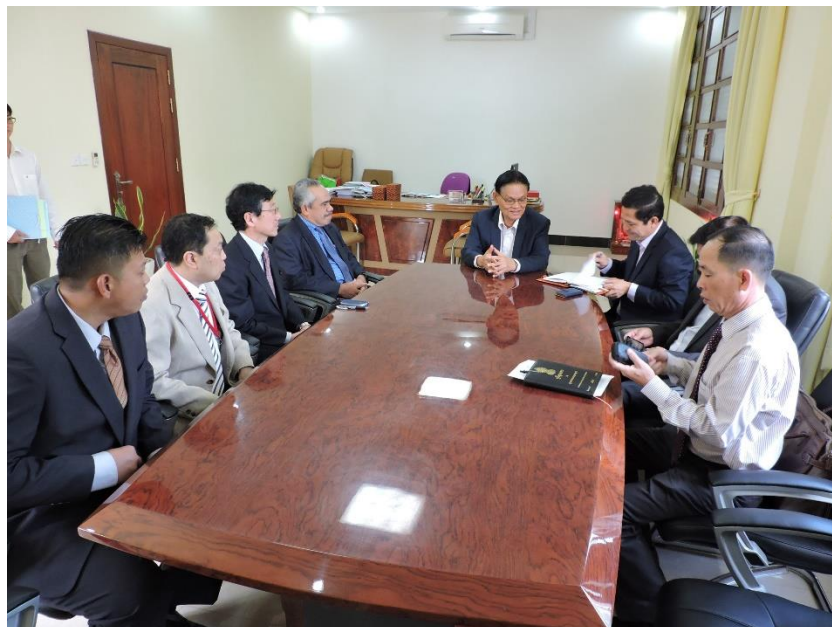


Exchange of momento between EAHC Chairman and PPAP Deputy Director



Visit to PPAP wharf

On 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, the delegation met Secretary of State of Public Works and Transport for a courtesy call and to brief His Excellency the outcomes of the technical visit. His Excellency expressed his appreciation to the delegation and welcome the initiatives and recommendation of the EAHC delegation. He agreed for Cambodia to join IHO membership and will seek the higher authority approval. He requested the delegation to provide more information especially on the benefits and advantages for being a member of the organisation for his further action. Generally the technical visit was very fruitful and rewarding.



Courtesy Call and Discussion with the Secretary of State

Article: Lt Cdr Ahmad Rizuan RMN - National Hydrographic Centre of Malaysia  
Photo: Lt Fedzrin Iswandi RMN - National Hydrographic Centre of Malaysia