



**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**



MACHC Letter 30 / 2009
09 October 2009

To:
Mr. Otto Guillermo Noack
Executive Director
COCATRAM
e-mail: <onoack@CACATRAM.org.ni>

Subject: **Invitation to the 10th MACHC Meeting**

Dear Mr. Noack,

1. First of all, let me introduce myself and the Organization I represent. I'm Vice Admiral PALMER, Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Brazilian Navy, and the current Chair of the Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC).

MACHC is an organism which works with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) with the main purposes of coordinating the safety of navigation within the region of its responsibility and promoting hydrographic development, which means the production and dissemination of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) in general, and hydrographic surveys and maritime cartography in particular. Details on MACHC activities may be found at the web site <www.iho-machc.org>.

2. The International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) has called my attention to the outstanding role the Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo (COCATRAM) has the Caribbean Sea and its historical participation at MACHC meetings. The importance of COCATRAM is distinguish once it is estimated that over 30% of the world's crude oil passes through the Caribbean which is home to over 50% of the world's cruise shipping. In addition, the Caribbean endures a hurricane season from June to November; the storms can and do leave a trail of devastation on the islands and their coasts. For these reasons, it is crucial that Countries in the Region undertake hydrographic surveys as and when required, and that they arrange for the compilation and publication of hydrographic data, as well as the dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for a safe navigation.

MACHC will have its 10th Meeting next November, from the 3rd to the 6th, in Bridgetown, Barbados. We will be very glad if you, or COCATRAM representatives, may be present and participate with a brief presentation on the COCATRAM activities. The majority of Hydrographic Offices which work within the Region and IHB representatives will be present at this meeting. I'm sure this will be a very good opportunity for the COCATRAM and the IHO community to get better acquainted with one another and begin a partnership with a great potential to make a highlighted difference in the Caribbean Region.

Attached to the e-mail which bears this letter, follows the Agenda of the Meeting, the corresponding timetable, Registration Form, and logistic information.

3. Finally I would like to renew my congratulations on the initiative of the cooperation between the COCATRAM and the IHO and offer myself, my staff, and MACHC, to help with any subject that we may be of use.

Yours sincerely,



LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA
Vice Admiral (Brazil)
Brazilian Director of Hydrography and Navigation - MACHC Chair

Copy:
MACHC Member States;
IHB

DIRETORIA DE HIDROGRAFIA E NAVEGAÇÃO, Rua Barão de Jaceguay, S/Nº, Ponta da Armação – Centro, CEP 24048-900 - Niterói, RJ, Tel. (+55 21) 2189-3014 - e-mail: <int.rel@mar.mar.mil.br>

Note: To improve the Commission's effectiveness, this letter is provided only by e-mail.