

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping Hosts the 2nd IMO Regional Meeting of Directors/Heads of Maritime Administrations

ST. JOHN'S June 28th, 2023 – The 2nd Annual International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Regional Meeting of Directors/Heads of Maritime Administrations (DIHMAR2) of the Caribbean was held over the period 26 to 28 June 2023 at the St. James Club and Villas, Mamora Bay. The meeting was jointly organized by the IMO and the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS).



DIHMAR 2 in Session

The objective of the meeting is to update Directors and Heads of Maritime Administrations on the latest regulations, training, and other developments in the international and regional maritime sector. It is designed to provide Caribbean maritime administrators with the latest information on current and future developments at the IMO and to facilitate the exchange of information between Caribbean administrations and educators.

The meeting was delivered in a hybrid format with delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, the Republic of Suriname, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the territories/regions of Anguilla (United Kingdom), Aruba, Bonaire (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Bermuda (United Kingdom), the Cayman Islands (United Kingdom), Curacao, Martinique (France), Montserrat (United Kingdom), Sint Maarten (Kingdom of the Netherlands), and Turks and Caicos Islands (United Kingdom) participating both in person and virtually.

Delegates from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Caribbean Maritime Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA), the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU), the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMoU), the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) Caribbean, the National Training Agency (NTA), the Regional Activity Center Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe), The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), the Women

in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC), the World Maritime University (WMU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the office of the Regional Coordinator Caribbean (RCC) also participated.



DIHMAR 2 Official Group Photo

Matters such as training and certification, the casualty/incident investigation database, and the regional licensing scheme were among the issues discussed. Members were also updated on critical issues such as regional maritime security and maritime education while member States and participating organizations gave reports on their activities since the previous meeting last year.

On Wednesday, June 28th, technical officers from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) delivered a seminar outlining the mandate of the UKHO and how the organization sets and raises global standards for both hydrography and navigation.



UKHO Technical Officers presenting during the seminar

The opening ceremony was held at a Cocktail Reception at the Catamaran Hotel on the evening of June 25th, 2023, with welcome remarks from Ambassador Dwight C. R. Gardiner, Director/Registrar General ADOMS, remarks from Mr. Nathanael Knapp, Head of Partnering and Engagement (UKHO) and Mr. Carlos Salgado, Head of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section, Technical Cooperation Division (IMO).

The official Remarks and Opening were done by the Hon. Senator Samantha Marshall, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy. In her presentation, she remarked that she was heartened to see the strong representation of women involved in the regional maritime architecture. She further noted the compact and comprehensive range of topics on the agenda and challenged participants to bring balance to the deliberations on the resolutions to strengthen regulatory regimes by reflecting on the fact that the ocean plays a vital role in the economies of Caribbean States.



Hon. Senator Samantha Marshall opening the DIHMAR 2