

**COMMODORE ROD NAIRN  
HYDROGRAPHER OF AUSTRALIA**

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2008  
AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

**20 June 2008**

Your Excellency, Mr Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea  
High Commissioner to Australia;  
The Honourable Greg Combet AM, Parliamentary  
Secretary for Defence Procurement;  
Ms Sharon Bird, MP, Member for Cunningham;  
Mr Jim Turnour, MP, Member for Leichhardt;  
Rear Admiral Allan du Toit, Commander Border Protection  
Command representing Chief of Navy;  
Mr Joseph Kunda, Hydrographer of Papua New Guinea;  
Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Industry Partners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Thank you for taking your valuable time to be with us here  
this morning to help celebrate World Hydrography Day.

Hydrography is about measuring the depth of the seas,  
oceans and the characteristics of the water column and  
seafloor in order to make nautical charts and ocean maps.

Historically its primary purpose was to enable safe  
navigation for Maritime Trade and Military Operations.

Today the utility of hydrographic information has broadened and it is recognised as an essential enabler for exploitation of offshore resources, protection of the marine environment, ocean modelling and environmental monitoring.

Hydrography cannot be addressed, only at a national level. The maritime Domain is essentially global as international shipping need harmonised information to common standards.

The International Hydrographic Organisation was founded on 21 June 1921. The objectives of the International Hydrographic Organisation is to achieve a close and permanent association between national hydrographic offices;

- for the exchange of nautical charts and publications
- encourage and facilitate international cooperation for the coordination of hydrographic and oceanographic activities;

- and establish standards which member nations are encouraged to adopt for their hydrographic surveys, nautical charts and publications.

The impact the International Hydrographic Organisation has made advancing worldwide safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment and to the development and cooperation between nations, cannot be underestimated. Australia represented by the Australian Hydrographic Service was a founding member of this Organisation and our contribution is internationally recognised. In fact today one of the 3 directors of the IHO is a recently serving officer of the Australian Hydrographic Service.

Today's presentations will highlight Australia's contribution to capacity building in the region, particularly by showcasing the completion of the PNG Chart modernisation project conducted in the true spirits of

Hydrographic Capacity building, International Cooperation and partnership with industry.

I would now like to introduce Rear Admiral Du Toit, Commander Border Protection Command to put World Hydrography Day and Capacity building into to the Australian context.