

**First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information**  
**with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”**

**Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
**4 – 8 May 2026**



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# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information

**GEOSA**

الهيئة العامة للمساحة  
والمعلومات الجيومكانية  
General Authority for Survey  
and Geospatial Information



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# Current Situation – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Current Status

- Advancing marine geospatial information to support Vision 2030, maritime safety, and the blue economy
- Strong focus on the Arabian Gulf as a strategic, high-traffic shared waterway

## Institutional Framework

- GEOSA: National Hydrographic Office and lead marine geospatial authority
- Regional MSDI Ambassador
- Coordination with MAWANI, MEWA, and national stakeholders

## Key Assets

- ENCs, PNCs, hydrographic datasets, coastal zone charts
- MSDI Phase 1 platform operational
- Tidal and marine data services (Red Sea & Arabian Gulf)

## Progress

- 100% coverage: Red Sea & Gulf of Aqaba
- ~70% coverage: Arabian Gulf (target: full by end 2026)
- 101 charts completed; 19 under development
- MSDI initiative internationally recognized (2025)



# Vision 2030

- ❑ Fully integrated, interoperable MSDI aligned with national geospatial infrastructure
- ❑ Supports marine spatial planning, environmental management, and blue economy

## Key Directions

- Adoption of UN-IGIF-Hydro aligned policy framework
- Strengthened regional governance for shared marine data
- Deep integration across national and regional stakeholders



# Key Challenges

- ❑ **Governance:** Cross-border coordination in shared waters
- ❑ **Sustainability:** Long-term funding for surveys and MSDI
- ❑ **Data:** Remaining hydrographic gaps and data currency
- ❑ **Capacity:** Skills in S-100, analytics, interoperability
- ❑ **Standards:** Transition to S-100 and regional alignment



# Questionnaire – Key Insights – Regional Feedback



## Governance

- Uneven MSDI awareness and participation
- Common gaps: governance, technical expertise, data integration
- Training priorities: interoperability, MSDI frameworks
- S-100 impact still limited
- Strong demand for data licensing guidance

## Main Barriers

- Limited resources
- Policy constraints
- Lack of clear value proposition

## Priority Actions

- Capacity building
- Data sharing frameworks
- Regional pilot projects
- Alignment with UN-GGIM



# Opportunities

- ❑ Vision 2030 and National Geospatial Strategy
- ❑ Regional cooperation (RSAHC, GCC)
- ❑ Emerging technologies (AI, remote sensing, S-100)
- ❑ Capacity development (IHO + national academy)
- ❑ MSDI pilot projects (MSP, environment, ports)



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# UN-IGIF & IHO C-17

- ❑ Strong engagement with UN-GGIM and IHO
- ❑ Alignment with UN-IGIF and contribution to UN-IGIF-Hydro
- ❑ Use of IHO C-17 as MSDI implementation guidance

## Net Steps

- Operationalizing all 9 UN-IGIF pathways in marine domain
- Localization for regional application



# Requested Support

- ❑ Practical MSDI implementation frameworks
- ❑ Targeted S-100 and interoperability training
- ❑ Regional knowledge-sharing platforms
- ❑ Case studies and policy templates
- ❑ Support for cross-border data collaboration



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**Thank you**



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