

**Roshan Ranaweera**

Sri Lanka

**Q1**

The National Hydrographic Office (NHO) of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) was established in 1984 and is accredited by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) as the focal point for Hydrography in Sri Lanka. The project “Strengthening of the National Hydrographic Office of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency of Sri Lanka” was initiated in 1984–1986 and commenced in 1988 as a technical cooperation project between Sri Lanka and the Federal Republic of Germany. The project’s objective was to enable the NHO to provide better and more comprehensive hydrographic information to users, thus contributing to the overall goal for a better and improved management of aquatic resources of the country’s exclusive economic zone. The Project was successfully concluded, and NHO was vested in its legal power in 1996. Since 1988, the NHO has been surveying Sri Lankan waters to ensure their safe, sustainable, and navigable use.

**Q2**

Sri Lanka has been making efforts to position itself as a maritime hub in the Indian Ocean region. The island nation’s strategic location on major shipping routes and its modern ports make it an attractive destination for transshipment and other maritime activities. In this regard, assurance of navigational safety and efficiency for international and domestic vessels is essential, besides developing port infrastructure. Therefore, Sri Lanka plans to undertake a digital transformation initiative to fully modernize traditional products and services, deliver high-quality data and digital services to our users, and provide data-driven services for more efficient shipping to boost our blue economy.

**Q3**

Research and technology articles are my preferred section – a way to advance understanding of new frontiers in ocean mapping. IHR always features cornerstones in research/technological development of the hydrography.