

# Looking Forward



After a long and cold winter in the Northern Hemisphere, I'm looking forward to spring again. A warm breeze is already blowing in from the Caribbean with this issue's interview, portraying the Maritime Authority of Suriname and its Hydrographer, Freddy Delchot. It is good to read how the small Hydrographic Service of the smallest country in South America, responsible for just 300 kilometres of coastline, together with inland waterways, is looking clear-eyed towards its role in the greater region of the future Caribbean. The Maritime Authority of Suriname aspires to be the best maritime authority in the region, playing an active role by promoting technical cooperation, exchange of information and strengthening both its own hydrographic capabilities and those of its sister organisations in surrounding nations. Delchot proposes cooperation between the countries within the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) in order to enhance safety of navigation in the area.

On another note, I would like to thank the many of our readers who took part in the reader survey we held a few months ago. The outcome was positive overall. I would like to highlight a few of the outcomes. We asked respondents how they used Hydro International. Close to 80% responded that they were using HI to get information to improve their work performance. This brings us straight to heart of the existence and goal of Hydro: helping the professional function in a more professional and knowledgeable way. The overwhelming majority of our readers is satisfied with the magazine and would recommend it to a colleague. Many subscribers already share their copy with colleagues; on average, each issue of Hydro International is read by five people: which means an overall readership of 50,000 interested professionals! Of course, there were some minor points of critique as well; readers told us that they would like to see even more technical articles in place of product news, and would also appreciate more reporting from, for instance, Brazil, Africa and the Middle East. We will take these remarks into account and make improvements where we can.

A first sign of spring is always the start of the tradeshow season. I am looking forward meeting a lot of you again in a few weeks during Ocean Business 2011, from April 5 to 7 in Southampton. There'll be plenty of time to meet up with the Hydro team, who will be there in force for the duration of the show. Please come and see us on stand R3 or drop an email to [durk.haarsma@geomares.nl](mailto:durk.haarsma@geomares.nl) to schedule an appointment.