

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON
THE STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS

Brest, France, 7-11 May 1984

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Administrative Arrangements
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Recognition of Course Submissions to the VIth Meeting
 5. Review of Course Submissions
 6. Amendments to Statutes
 7. Amendments to the "Standards"
 8. Comments on draft Statutes
 9. Hydrographic Society's letter to the Board
 10. Any other business
 11. Date and venue of the next Meeting
 12. Closing of the Meeting
-

FINAL REPORT

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON THE STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS
(Brest, France, 7-11 May 1984)

ATTENDANCE : The VIIth Meeting of the Advisory Board was held at the Office of l'Etablissement Principal du Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine (EPSHOM), at Brest, France, 7-11 May 1984. The following were present :

Lt. Cdr. C. DON, R.Neth.N. (Retd) - Chairman - FIG (Netherlands)
Ing. Gén. J. BOURGOIN - FIG (France)
Lt.Cdr. A.E. INGHAM, RN (Retd)-FIG (U.K.)
Mr. Adam J. KERR, CHS - IHO (Canada)
Cdr. L.L. de OLIVEIRA, BN - IHO (Brazil)
Mr. Shoichi OSHIMA, MSA - IHO (Japan)
Cdr. D. SENGUPTA, IN - IHO (India)
Cdr. N.N. SATHAYE, HRS (Retd)-IHB (Secretary of the Board)

Also in attendance, when their respective course submissions were reviewed by the Board, were Mr. Peter D. RICHARDS of the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Commander Pedro Monteiro FIADEIRO of the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute and Rear Admiral J.M. GARCIA MORETON and Lt. Antonio Ruiz CANAVATE of the Spanish Hydrographic Institute.

No communication was received from Mr. Bosun T. AYINDE, a FIG nominee on the Board.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Ing. Général J. BOURGOIN, Director of SHOM, welcomed all participants and wished them a successful and fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Brest. Lt. Cdr. C. DON, Chairman of the Board, thanked Ing. Général BOURGOIN for hosting the meeting, his kind hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the meeting. The chairman welcomed Mr. Shoichi OSHIMA, of Japanese Hydrographic Department, who was recently nominated by the IHO as a Member of the Board.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Ing. Général BOURGOIN explained transport arrangements made for participants and the programme drawn up which included a cocktail reception followed by dinner on 7 May 1984 and technical tour of EPSHOM and a sightseeing tour in the environs of Brest on the concluding day of the meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Provisional Agenda circulated earlier by the Secretary was adopted with some alteration in the order of items taken up for discussion.

4. RECOGNITION OF COURSE SUBMISSIONS TO THE VIth MEETING

- (1) Basic and Long Hydrographic Courses of the R.N. Hydrographic School, Plymouth, U.K.

The Board confirmed its continued recognition of the above two courses

taken together as a Category 'A' course. The Board's approval was conveyed earlier to U.K. NFP by letter No. S3/1056 of 25 July 1983.

- (2) Course Programme of the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School (NPS) Graduate Education Programme.

When reviewed at the VIth meeting of the Board, certain differences had been found in this programme as compared with the "Standards". The U.S. NFP was addressed on the subject by the Board vide letter No. S3/1056 of 25 April 1983 and was requested to amend the programme to conform with the "Standards". The U.S. NFP by his letter of 24 October 1983 had confirmed that the amendments required were made. This document was circulated to Members of the Board by the Secretariat, on 16 December 1983. The Board decided to award a Category 'A' Certificate to the amended programme of the U.S. NPS, Monterey, California.

- (3) Syllabus of the final Examination of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, U.K.

This was first reviewed at the Vth Meeting of the Board and clarification was sought from the RICS, through U.K. NFP. The Board considered the clarification at its VIth Meeting but decided to seek further clarification on certain differences found in the syllabi. At this meeting, the Board took note of letter No. A3/ed/LI/2/33/4 of 1st May 1984 to the Chairman of the Board and decided, in view of the explanation given in the letter under reference, to grant the Syllabus of the final Examination of the RICS U.K. a Category 'A' Certificate.

- (4) "Specialisation Course in Hydrography" submitted by the Portuguese Naval Hydrographic Institute to the VIth Meeting.

The Board had reviewed this at its VIth Meeting and had found some differences in the syllabi as compared with the "Standards". By letter No. S3/1056 of 25/4/1983, the Portuguese NFP was requested to amend their course programme to conform with the "Standards". By his letter No. 256 of 5 May 1983, the Portuguese Hydrographer confirmed that all amendments required were being made. This letter was sent to all Members of the Board. The Board informed the Portuguese Hydrographer by its letter No. S3/1056 of 16 May 1983, that, in view of the amendments, the above course was awarded a Category 'A' certificate on assumption that NFP will confirm the subject item 2.4 (3rd edition of the Standards) is a pre-requisite for admission to the RICS course.

5. REVIEW OF COURSE SUBMISSIONS

- (i) COURS D'OFFICIERS HYDROGRAPHES - Course programme of Hydrographic Officers of the Spanish Navy's Hydrographic School

This was sent to Members by the Spanish Hydrographer under cover of his letter dated 27 January 1984. The Board reviewed this programme for its recognition as a Category 'A' Course. The Board found the submission well documented, which greatly facilitated its review. After due deliberation the Board concluded that while the programme could, if certain amendments were made, exceed in many aspects the standards required for a Category 'B' certificate, it fell short of attaining the standards required for Category 'A' Certification. The Board therefore decided to inform the Spanish Hydrographer (NFP) that it was prepared to grant a Category 'B' Certificate to the programme, provided the required amendments were made and that it would consider granting a Category 'A' Certificate if the amended programme were further enhanced by increasing the number of instructional hours or including some period of practical training in hydrography prior to undertaking the course of study.

(ii) INTERMEDIATE HYDROGRAPHY AND OCEANOGRAPHY COURSE OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF PORTUGAL

This Course was sent to Members by the Director, School of Hydrography and Oceanography of the Portuguese Navy, under cover of his letter No. 47/EHO of 26 January 1984. The programme was reviewed for recognition as a Category 'B' Course. The Board found that certain amendments to the syllabi were required for them to conform to the "Standards". It decided to award a Category 'B' Certificate to the programme provided the required amendments were made, and to address the Portuguese Hydrographer accordingly.

(iii) COURSE PROGRAMME OF THE CANADIAN HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE

This programme was sent to Members by the Director General of the Canadian Hydrographic Service by his letter No. 5441-FI-1 dated 9 September 1983. The programme was reviewed by the Board for recognition as a Category 'A' Course. After due deliberations, the Board concluded that the programme clearly exceeded in some aspects the standards required for a Category 'B' Certificate, and that it could possibly be raised to Category 'A' with an increase in instructional hours. However, the document did not contain adequate details for its review. The Board therefore decided to request the Canadian Hydrographer to re-submit the programme next year taking due account of the "Guide Notes" in the "Standards".

6. SUGGESTIONS OF REAR ADMIRAL D.C. KAPOOR ON THE BOARD'S STATUTES CONTAINED IN HIS LETTER OF 13 JULY 1983 TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND THE LATTER'S REPLY DATED 24 AUGUST 1983.

The three suggestions made by Rear Admiral KAPOOR were :

- a) that although Members of the Board were nominated by their parent Organizations, e.g. FIG and IHO, they did not represent any institution or government,
- b) that the Statutes should make a provision for the Board to co-opt additional members, and
- c) that the Board should receive submissions direct from Institutions in a country where there is no designated NFP.

The Chairman in his reply had stated that, as far as the IHO was concerned, the procedure was clearly stated in IHB C.L. 27/83 and that FIG procedure on similar line would be worked out; also that the Board could only recommend to its parent bodies, i.e. FIG and IHO, how they should nominate their representatives. As for (b) above, the Chairman had said that the Board could co-opt additional members if indeed these were required purely as an ad hoc measure. In respect of (c) above, the Board believed that no educational institution was likely ever to organize a course in Hydrography if there were no demand for it and that there would be demand only if there were to be a hydrographic service, in which case the Head of such a service could be requested to be the NFP. In view of the foregoing the Board decided that there was no need to amend the Statutes which had been approved by the two parent bodies. The Secretary to the Board was requested to inform Admiral KAPOOR accordingly.

7. AMENDMENTS TO "STANDARDS"

Certain amendments to the "Standards" were suggested by Cdr. SENGUPTA in July 1983. The Board approved of these, and of others suggested by Ing. Général BOURGOIN and Lt. Cdr. Alan INGHAM. The Board, however, decided not to issue a new edition of the "Standards" because a) the amendments were of a minor nature and could therefore be circulated by a 'correction' paper and b) major restructuring of the "Standards" would be required in 1985.

8. COMMENTS ON DRAFT STATUTES

Certain comments made on the draft Statutes by some members had not been received by all and this had caused some doubt as to whether all these had been taken into consideration when finalizing the Statutes. The Secretary supplied copies of relevant correspondence to the Meeting which confirmed that no change was necessary to the minutes of the previous meeting.

9. HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S LETTER OF 8 DECEMBER 1983 TO THE CHAIRMAN

The Hydrographic Society in its letter submitted certain recommendations for consideration of the Board which were in the Society's words, "intended to make the Standards more broadly effective and attractive to industrial and Third World interests". The letter was considered in great depth. The letter contained some criticism of the limitations imposed by the Standards in their current form, from the point of view of surveys for commerce and industry, and suggestions for changes which might be made.

In consideration of the Society's critique, the following suggestions by the Board Members were finally agreed :

a) Paragraph 5.1.2, p. 8 of the Standards could be amended to read :

"Partial recognition : when the programme concerned is considered by the Board not to cover completely the requirements for full recognition. In such cases, however, the Board must be assured that the course constitutes a viable and relevant entity for hydrographic surveying students".

b) An analysis be undertaken using the form of a matrix, which examined the entire syllabus against the needs of different types of surveys e.g. hydrographic offices, port surveys, oil industry surveys, etc. It might then be possible to aggregate these various requirements to form special courses but in all cases the basic needs for category A and B surveyors would remain.

c) It was recommended that the Hydrographic Society be asked to provide advice on specifying the various types of survey which might be considered. It was unanimously agreed that there could be no change in the spirit of the Standards or dilution of the competence required.

In order to implement the foregoing a working group was formed of Messrs. BOURGOIN, KERR and OSHIMA, and Lt. Cdr. INGHAM was requested to provide liaison with the Hydrographic Society. (Subject to approval of the Council of the Society).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Procedure for Replacement of FIG Members of the Advisory Board.

The following procedure was agreed upon :

On being notified of the cessation of service by an existing member, the FIG member bodies will be invited by the Chairman of FIG Commission IV to submit nominations for his successor. The Chairman of FIG Commission IV, with advice from the Advisory Board as requested, will select the new Member from the list of nominations received. (The procedure for the replacement of IHO members of the Advisory Board is already agreed, as specified in IHB C.L. 27/83).

(ii) STATUTES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

It was decided that the Statutes, which at present are available on request from the Secretariat at the IHB, would be included in the next (4th Edition) of the "Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors" ("The Standards").

(iii) PART II OF THE STANDARDS - BIBLIOGRAPHY

Part II of the "Standards" - Bibliography was noted as requiring updating. The Board decided to request co-operation from the RICS and the Hydrographic Society, both of which publish a reading list, in order that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided. The kind offer of the IHB to print the publication from jacket artwork and text provided was accepted with gratitude.

(iv) ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Chairman urged members to respond promptly to the correspondence, particularly with regard to submission of comments on course programmes submitted for review. Members were requested to copy all their correspondence to the Chairman of the Board to the Secretary to the Board.

(v) STANDARDIZATION OF PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING COURSE PROGRAMMES

The need was identified to assess the amount of tuition given to achieve the levels of knowledge required by the "Standards". Although this has always been a consideration in the past, it has not been standardized. It was therefore agreed that analysis of lecture and practical/laboratory hours of courses already awarded Category A and B certificates of recognition should be carried out. The Secretary was requested to undertake this analysis and seek the help of concerned NFPs, if necessary.

(vi) RETIREMENT OF Lt. Cdr. INGHAM

Lt. Cdr. INGHAM announced with regret his retirement from the Board with effect from the introduction of procedures described in 10(i). He said his retirement from North East London Polytechnic (NELP) would take him from the main stream of the educational world and his continued service as a Board Member would become less appropriate with time.

The Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Board, accepted Lt. Cdr. INGHAM's retirement with great regret. The Board was unanimous in conveying its deep appreciation to Lt. Cdr. INGHAM for his outstanding contribution to the Board's work from its very inception.

(vii) RETROSPECTIVE RECOGNITION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The Secretary informed the meeting of the inquiry by the Australian Hydrographer as to whether a hydrographic training course recently started at the Australian Maritime College, which followed closely the standards required for a Category 'A' certification, could be granted such a recognition with retrospective effect when the Board reviews the submission in future.

The Board decided that this would not be possible and asked the Secretary to inform the Australian NFP accordingly.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Mr. Adam KERR repeated his invitation (extended at the Vith meeting) to host the next meeting in Canada. Mr. Shoichi OSHIMA also extended an invitation to host the next meeting in Tokyo, Japan, and added that the Board had never met in Japan since its inception. The Chairman appreciated Mr. OSHIMA's kind invitation but added that as Mr. KERR had invited the Board at its VIth meeting to hold the 1985 meeting in Canada, most Members had already made budgetary provision for travel to Canada; it would therefore be difficult to change the venue at this stage. He added that the Board could hold the IXth meeting in Tokyo in 1986.

It was, therefore, decided that the next meeting of the Board would be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from 22 to 26 April 1985, following the biennial Conference of the Canadian Hydrographic Service.

12. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman, in formally concluding the meeting, thanked Ingénieur Général BOURGOIN (Director of SHOM) and the staff of EPSHOM for their kind hospitality and excellent arrangements which greatly helped in fruitful discussions and successful conduct of the meeting.

Ingénieur Général Jean BOURGOIN and Ingénieur Général André COMOLET-TIRMAN escorted participants on a technical tour of EPSHOM. The participants were impressed by the excellent facilities of EPSHOM and by the extensive use of computers in cartography and in the printing of notices to mariners and other nautical publications. The participants also visited the training school at EPSHOM and observed 12 students including three foreign nationals at work. At the end of the tour the participants were presented a souvenir of SHOM "5e CARTE PARTICULIERE DES COTES DE BRETAGNE, carte extraite du Neptune François - 1e édition 1693"

During the cocktail party given for participants, followed by a formal dinner on Monday 7 May 1984, Ing. Gén. BOURGOIN, in his speech, praised "the constructive and dynamic role of our Group" and said certain standards of competence for hydrographic training were essential to ensure safety of navigation and aid those involved in exploitation of the oceans. He added that the Board was fortunate in being associated with both the Government and private sectors of the hydrographic community. Having full confidence in the Board's work, he quoted the following statement of François ARAGO, a famous scientist and Member of the French Parliament in 1837: "Gentlemen, among the public bodies, there is one which has taken for its motto the opposite of the common saying, i.e. "much ado about nothing" - it does a lot of work and makes little ado. The body I am speaking of is that of the hydrographic surveyors".