

FINAL REPORT

Eleventh Meeting of the FIG/IHO International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors IHB Monaco, 3-5 May 1988

Location and Attendance

The XIth meeting of the Advisory Board was held at the International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco.

The following were present:

- Mr Adam J. KERR, IHB (Chairman)
- Mr Suk Woo LEE, FIG (Korea)*
- Mr Roger LOTT, FIG (USA)*
- Professor Dr. Ing. Sjamisir MIRA, FIG (Indonesia)*
- Mr Peter G. ODLING-SMEE, FIG (UK)*
- Mr Shoichi OSHIMA, IHO (Japan)*
- Captain I.A. ABBASI (Retd) PN, IHB, Secretary.

(* country of present residence)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Rear Admiral Sir David HASLAM, the President of the Directing Committee, welcomed all participants and wished them a successful meeting. He also took the opportunity to brief the members of the Board on the new management team of the Bureau.

Mr. Adam J. KERR then took the Chair and opened the meeting by introducing the new Secretary of the Advisory Board, Captain I.A. ABBASI (Retd) PN.

2. VOTE OF THANKS

The members of the Board registered a vote of thanks to the Maritime Safety Academy and Foundation of Ship Building Advancement, Japan for making excellent arrangements in organizing a visit to Japan for all the members of the FIG/IHO Advisory Board who participated in a lecture meeting on "World Hydrography Today and the Significance of International Qualification of Hydrographic Surveying", and visited the Hydrographic Department of Japan and the Maritime Safety Academy Training Centre.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Mr. Adam J. KERR, the Chairman, explained the administrative arrangements and schedule of the meeting, including social events and a visit to the Italian Hydrographic Office, Genoa on Friday, 6 May 1988.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda, as circulated earlier, was adopted with some minor adjustments, including an additional item to discuss the future of the Board.

5. REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE Xth MEETING

While reviewing the Report of the Xth Meeting, it was pointed out that the Report of the IXth Meeting should also be considered as some of the items of that report requiring action were still outstanding.

The Chairman explained that the comparative table of hours had not been updated due to changes of the Secretary of the Board in the recent past. He assured the members of the Board that the requisite task will now be undertaken and completed before the next meeting. The Bibliography was in the process of being updated and the status would be discussed as part of an agenda item.

The Chairman informed the members that with the consent of the parent organizations, the Hydrographic Society had now been given observer status. The Hydrographic Society had been informed of the schedule of the Xth meeting but had not been able to send an observer. Mr. R. LOTT, who had been asked by the H.S. to represent them, will report to the Society on the current meeting.

It was further decided by the Board that whenever an observer of the Society participates in future meetings, he will not be able to take part in the meeting while the members of the Board review course submissions which are treated as confidential.

The Secretary had provided a specimen of a Draft Certificate including details of specialization. The members of the Board considered the Draft and approved it after making certain changes. It was decided that a reduced copy of the Certificate would be inserted in future Editions of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors, as and when published.

The requirement for members to regularly attend the meetings was emphasized in a letter to the Hydrographer of India by the International Hydrographic Bureau, soon after the Xth Meeting. Cdr. SENGUPTA, who had been expected to attend this meeting in Monaco, was reported to have fallen sick and could not therefore participate. The members of the Board, however, expressed concern over his regular absence in the past. It was suggested that some measures may be adopted to invalidate the membership, if an individual failed to attend two consecutive meetings, amending the Statutes if necessary. It was decided that the Chairman of the Board should write a letter to the Hydrographer of India expressing regret that Cdr. SENGUPTA was unable to attend due to his illness.

A letter to Dr. SCHLEIDER (FRG) had been written by the Chairman on the subject of Category 'C' course suggesting that he apply for the Category 'B' course as it was considered unreasonable to require an international standard for Category 'C'. There has been no response from Dr. SCHLEIDER indicating his intention to formally submit the course of his institution for Category 'B' accreditation.

The Draft Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and the Statutes of the Advisory Board were sent by the Chairman to the parent organizations for approval. The IHO has since approved the Standards and ratified the Statutes but there has been no response from the FIG. The Standards had been published as the 5th Edition in August 1987.

The Report of the Xth Meeting was then adopted by the members of the Board unanimously.

6. PROCESS OF SELECTING NEW IHO MEMBERS

The members of the Board were informed about the resignation from the Board of Captain Eugenio J.F. NEIVA, BN. It was regretted that with the absence of Cdr. SENGUPTA, this reduced full IHO membership. The International Hydrographic Bureau had issued a Circular Letter to its Member States inviting nominations so as to make a suitable selection to replace Captain NEIVA.

7. REVIEW OF NEW SUBMISSIONS

7.1 Course Programme of the Group Training Course in Hydrographic Survey - Japan.

The Board reviewed this excellently documented course which was presented by Mr. YASUHIRO OYAMADA of the Hydrographic Department, assisted by Mr. TATSUO HOSHI of JICA for recognition at Category 'B' level. The members of the Board had considerable time for a thorough scrutiny of this course as it was earlier presented to them in Japan when they visited Tokyo in March/April. After seeking clarifications on some of the points, the Board decided to award the course accreditation at Category 'B' level provided that through the NFP the course is amended to include better coverage of electronic positioning systems in the frequency range between 2MHz - 400 MHz.

7.2 Course Programme of the Maritime Safety Academy - Japan

The members of the Board had the opportunity of making a preliminary review of this course when presented in Japan in March/April. The course was formally presented before the Board for recognition at Category 'A' level by Dr. GANEKO of the Maritime Safety Academy, assisted by Mr. Oyamada, explaining the new supplement to the course which was circulated to the members on 15 April 1988. After scrutiny and careful consideration of this important and very useful course, the Board decided to take a decision by correspondence after seeking further clarification from the NFP on the following points:-

- (1) A comparison of hours allocated for Horizontal Control as per E.2.3. of the Standards with other Cat. 'A' courses showed that the allocated time should be increased from 20 hours to at least 60 hours.
- (2) A proposal to indicate as to how the electronic positioning systems in the frequency range 2MHz-400MHz, covering theory, use and calibration of systems such as Hyperfix, Argo, Syledis etc. will be included in the syllabus.
- (3) Arrangement of specific topics and the coverage as per 1.7 of the Standards on Law of the Sea.
- (4) Two weeks' Field Training in Hydrography including one week launch operations.
- (5) How the "long base line acoustic configuration" will be taught.
- (6) Provide some additional questions pertaining to planning of operations including logistic arrangements.

The Chairman will write a letter to the NFP requesting a response to the above.

8. Amendments to the Standards as proposed by Plymouth Polytechnic

Dr. Stephen HUGGET of Plymouth Polytechnic had written a letter to the Chairman in December 1987 suggesting some changes in Section "Basic I - Mathematics and Statistics" of the "Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors".

The principal change relates to the insertion of a new section on functions, considered to be a logical and sequential arrangement by Dr. HUGGET, to precede calculus. The members of the Board discussed the suggested changes and it was decided to take it up again at the next meeting, after the members of the Board have further discussed the changes with mathematicians in their countries. If a decision is then made to insert the changes, the same will be incorporated by the Secretariat along with any other changes when a new edition is printed. It was suggested that coordinate system and lines against B1.5 could be added but there was no need to insert vectors as the same were covered under another section of the Standards. A minor disparity in Section B3.3 of the 5th Edition of the Standards of Competence as compared with the 4th Edition was noted for further investigation.

9. INDIVIDUAL ACCREDITATION

A letter from Seaconsult addressed to the UK Hydrographer and a proposal from Mr. G.R. DOUGLAS of the Canadian Hydrographic Service on the matter of individual accreditation were discussed. After careful consideration, it was felt that although the Board could not provide individual accreditation itself there was a need for individual accreditation on a national basis and therefore merits recommendations by the Board. It was decided that the Secretariat would prepare draft guidelines to be followed by the National Focal Points, proposing a form and a draft certificate for consideration at the XIIth meeting.

It was further decided to use RICS/TPS forms as a model, including the provisions of para 1.3 of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors.

It was also suggested to maintain a register by the Secretariat for recording the particulars of those given individual accreditation by the National Focal Points.

10. STATUS OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

A copy of the draft updated Bibliography - Part II of the Standards was provided to the members who were requested to review the document and forward their comments to the Secretariat by 1 July 1988. It was noted that attention should be given to deletions as well as additions. The Chairman will approach the Canadian Hydrographic Service for assistance in verifying the citations. It is planned to finalize the Bibliography and publish it before the next meeting.

11. FUTURE OF THE BOARD

It was proposed that the Board should take a more active role in encouraging the submission of programmes, in particular programmes that might receive partial recognition.

Some concerns were expressed on the lack of publicity relating to the activities and the important work being undertaken by the Advisory Board. It was felt that individual members should be more active and avail themselves of every opportunity to contact and visit marine oriented training

institutions and encourage them to apply for accreditation, so as to promote and enhance the safety of navigation through adoption of International Standards of Training. The IHB will consider preparing and publishing a brochure, highlighting the activities of the FIG/IHO Advisory Board.

12. ONGOING REVIEW OF COURSES

Some of the courses approved by the Board during the early '80s are likely to have become obsolete as a result of substantial changes incorporated in the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors - 5th Edition. It was considered imperative that all institutions be kept informed of changes, as and when these are made so as to ensure that the course programmes are regularly updated. It was decided that all such institutions whose courses were approved prior to publication of the 5th Edition of the Standards be provided with a copy of the new edition and requested to update and consider amendments to the syllabus, which the members of the Board will be pleased to review, if submitted.

13. EXEMPTION BASIC SUBJECTS - PROCESS, HANDLING EXTERNAL STUDENTS

The matter was discussed and it was felt that the existing provisions in the Standards were considered adequate to deal with the exemption of basic subjects. Each course should be handled on its individual merit.

14. AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES

The Board considered the proposal of the Hellenic Navy contained in a Telex suggesting expansion of the Statutes to include a term of office for the members of the Board.

In addition, the members also felt it necessary to include provisions in the Statutes relating to regular absence of a member from the meetings of the Board, as such a situation had an adverse impact on the progress of the work. It was, therefore, decided to approach the parent organizations i.e. FIG and the IHO, requesting approval to amend the Statutes as under:-

(a) Article 2.1 be amended to add "A member of the Board will normally be expected to serve for a 6-year term, unless elected Vice-Chairman, in which event, sufficient time must be permitted for the full terms of the Vice-Chairman and Chairman to be completed (see para. 2.3). On the expiry of a Board member's term of office, the parent Organization may consider a re-appointment of that member, as appropriate."

(b) Article 2.2 be amended to add "In the event of a member's absence from two consecutive meetings, that member's status on the Board will be considered to have lapsed and a call will be made for a new nomination."

15. CONFIRMATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF THE XIIth MEETING

The venue of the next meeting was considered and it was decided that the XIIth meeting would be held either in Washington D.C. or in Baltimore, subject to agreement by the concerned U.S. authorities to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting. The dates of the meeting will be communicated later and it will be so adjusted so as to immediately precede or follow the Conference of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, scheduled in April 1989. It was also decided to hold the XIIIth meeting at Jakarta (Indonesia) if a course for review is then submitted by the Institute Teknologi Bandung as informed by Prof. Dr. Sjanisir MIRA.

There being no other points to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1600 on 5th May.
