

FIG/IHO ADVISORY BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE
DRAFT REPORT OF THE XXIII MEETING
Valparaíso, Chile, 12-18 April 2000

1.- Location and attendance

The XXIIIrd Meeting of the A. Board was held at the Hydrographic Office of Chile in Valparaíso, from 12 to 18 April 2000. It was hosted by the Chilean Hydrographer. The following were present:

Capt. Hugo Gorziglia (Chairman) (IHO)
Mr. Svante Astermo (Vice-chairman) (FIG)
Capt. Andy Armstrong (IHO)
Mr. Gordon Johnston (FIG)
Cdr. Steve Shipman (IHO)
Radm K.R. Srinivasan (IHO)
Dr. David Wells (FIG)
Capt. Federico Bermejo (Secretary) (IHB)

The Chairman introduced the Board Captain Andrew Armstrong (USA), new member appointed on behalf of IHO in replacement of Mr. Tatsuno. He also welcomed the representatives of IMA (R.Adm. F. Spanio), University of Southern Mississippi (Drs. Weisenburg and Godin), NAVOCEANO (Capt. McGee) and the Colombian Naval Academy (Lt. Cdr. Reyna) who attended the meeting to present their courses.

The Board regretted the absence of Mr. Razali bin Ahmad (Malaysia), FIG member of the Board, who had resigned a few days before the meeting.

2.- Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda. Administrative arrangements

Vice Admiral Jorge Swett, Chief of the Chilean Naval Staff inaugurated the meeting and highlighted the importance that hydrography has for the Chilean Navy. Captain Mac-Kay, the Chilean Hydrographer and host of the meeting welcomed the Board and wished it success.

The Chairman thanked both authorities and the agenda was subsequently adopted.

A Conference Room, secretarial support and other facilities were provided by the Chilean H. O. On behalf of the host, the Chairman explained the administrative arrangements and social events scheduled.

3.- Matters arising from previous meeting

a) Report of the XXIInd Meeting

The Board confirmed the approval of the Report of the XXIInd meeting.

b) Inter-sessional activities

The Chairman and members of the Board reported on various inter-sessional activities, as follows:

- The delay requested by the University of the Port of Bordeaux and the Hamburg University for Applied Sciences, for the re-submission of their courses, due to organic and re-structuring academic organization. Therefore, the course will be submitted to the XXIVth Meeting.
- The request of advice from IMA about the submission of a combination of courses seeking category A for the package.
- The approval by IHO of the Strategic Plan and Working Programme (2000-2004), including important items on Training and Education.

The Board agreed that more dissemination of its activities could be reached sending a short article of each annual meeting to commercial publications such as "Hydro International". It was noted that this is already done with "The Hydrographic Journal" of the H.S. and that the major means of information of the Board activities was the New International Hydrographic Bulletin, published by the I.H.B.

c) Review of the List of Actions following the XXIIIrd Meeting

The Chairman pointed out that most action identified in the List had been achieved. However, some items such as the re-structuring of the syllabus matters and options will require further development.

4.- Review of Courses

I.- "JOINT INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM" OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI-NAVOCEANO (USA)

The Board was helped in the reviewing of this Course by Captain McGee, Commanding Officer of Navoceano, Dr. Denis Weisenburg and Dr. Andre Godin of USM, who made an excellent presentation of the course clarifying some details.

The Board decided to award recognition to the course at Category A and Options 1 and 5. The Board also recommended the allocation of more time to some specific subjects identified.

II.- "HARBOUR AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT ADDRESSED TO HARBOUR AND COASTAL SURVEYORS" OF IMA (TRIESTE)

R.Adm. Spanio, Head of the Hydrographic Branch of the International Maritime Academy of Trieste, made a presentation of the course and of the activities of IMA. The Board acknowledged the importance of the tasks carried out in the hydrographic training field by this Institution which receives support from the Italian Government, the European Commission, The Authorities of the Province of Trieste and from the IHO.

The Board was provided with further information from R.Adm. Spanio and after agreeing to include in the programme some items which were missing, the Course was awarded recognition at Category B and Option 2.

III.- HYDROGRAPHIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC COURSE FOR NAVAL OFFICERS OF THE CHILEAN HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Lt. Cdr. Carrasco, helped the Board in the reviewing of this course, which was submitted for re-recognition at Category A and Options 1 and 2.

The Board congratulated the Chilean H.O. for the excellent submission. It was agreed to award re-recognition at the Category and Options requested.

IV.- HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS PROGRAM OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY OF COLOMBIA

After carefully reviewing the course submitted by the Colombian Naval Academy and considering the explanations given and the presentation made by Lt. Cdr. Reyna, Dean of Oceanography of the Naval Academy in Cartagena, the Board decided that it was not possible to proceed conclusively, due the several deficiencies in the documentation provided.

However, the course having a good potential for recognition at Category A, the Board offered its support and advice to the Colombian Naval Academy to re-structure the documentation in order to achieve a good submission at the next meeting in 2001

V. MSC/DIPLOMA IN HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON AND PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY

After reviewing this course, the Board decided that the structure of the course, following the documentation provided, did not meet the present standards, mainly with respect to hydrographic matters, and therefore, it was very difficult to assess it. It was decided to encourage the authority responsible for the course to prepare a new submission of the course at the XXIVth meeting, after providing them with clear indication of the deficiencies found.

5. Review of the standards

The Board considered the re-structuring of the Standards, as decided in the preceding meeting. It was confirmed that the three definitions of the Level of Knowledge will be amended to be in accordance with Bloom's taxonomy and that the definitions of the syllabus matters should be re-drafted using active verbs. The change of the Level of Knowledge (present item 2.4 of the Standards) will be the first step of the change which will be promulgated through 1) Inclusion in the Report of the meeting 2) in letters to be addressed to the courses to be submitted in 2001.

The second step will consist of re-structuring the text of each item of the syllabus, adapting it to clearly define the task that a student must be able to achieve in each matter.

In the light of this second step, the Board finalized the reviewing of the Essentials and agreed to complete the task during the inter-sessional period, so that the 9th version may be available for consideration at the next meeting.

6. Other matters

i) Board Members replacement

Following the resignation of Mr. Razali bin Ahmad, the Board decided to request FIG Chairman Commission IV, to nominate a new FIG member in his replacement.

ii) Standards for Nautical Cartographers

The Chairman made a summary of the background of this item. The A. Board accepted the task of developing standards of competence as decided by the IHO Working Program and required by the IHB. For this purpose, the Board felt necessary to increase its membership with 2 other members, who must have the adequate nautical cartographic background.

It was decided that the Chairman will write a letter to the President of the IHB D.C. accepting the task and requesting the necessary action from IHO and FIG to fulfil the requirements above mentioned. The task of drafting the "Standards for Nautical Cartographers" will begin after the new group is formed.

iii) Briefing

The new Board member A. Amstrong gave a presentation of the structure and courses of the Joint Hydrographic Center of NOAA/University of New Hampshire, implemented in 1999.

iv) The Board also considered the document drafted by the International Marine Contractors Association (Survey Division) about Academic Requirements for Graduate Surveyors.

The Board felt that this document could help in the procedure of assessment the knowledge and expertise level required from hydrographers.

7. Date and venue of the next meeting

The Chairman informed the Board about the offer from the President of the IHB D.C. to handle the A. Board Meeting at the IHB premises in Monaco. It was unanimously agreed that this offer would not represent any advantage to the members of the A. Board, as normally they volunteer to host meetings in their countries, providing facilities superior to those available at the IHB. It was also found that meeting in other places was more motivating to institutions running courses. Therefore, while thanking the President of the IHB D.C. for this offer, it was kindly rejected.

The Board then decided to accept the kind offer from R.Adm. F. Spanio (IMA) to handle the XXIVth Meeting in IMA Trieste, for 3 to 9 May 2001.

It was also decided to accept the invitations made by the University of New Hampshire in 2002 and the RN Hydrographic School in 2003.

Hugo M. Gorziglia
Captain
Chairman FIG/IHO IAB