



## IRCC 2011

### REPORT OF THE FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS

In 2011 the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers held its 34th meeting in New Orleans USA (2 - 6 May).

List of participants:

**IHO:** Capt. Andrew Armstrong, Prof. Delf Egge, Cdre K. N. Nair, Prof. Luciano Surace – Vice Chair

**FIG:** Mr. Adam Greenland – Acting Secretary, Mr. Gordon Johnston, Prof. Razali Mahmud – Vice Chair

**ICA:** Mr. Ron Furness, Prof. Lysandros Tsoulos - Chair

**Apologies:** Mr. David Neale (FIG)

#### Main issues:

##### **New editions of Standards [S-5 & S-8]**

The new editions of both standards which were developed, agreed and ratified by the parent organizations in 2010 were made available to the international hydrographic community on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011. The new editions besides a number of changes in the syllabi for CAT A and CAT B hydrographers/cartographers introduce two major changes:

- a. The recognition of “Schemes” which are systems to review, assess and subsequently recognize an Individual, to ensure an Individual has the relevant and up to date competencies to perform the role of a surveyor or nautical cartographer at the Category A or Category B level. It is this system or scheme that the Board shall recognize on the basis of appropriate information to demonstrate that a suitable level of competence is achieved and maintained.
- b. The establishment of the funding scheme which will allow achieving, with effectiveness and efficiency, the on-going work entrusted to the IBSC to hold annual meetings and to assess the training programmes before and after they have been recognized as complying with the international standards.

In order to ensure the process for collecting, holding and disbursing the fees received in the process of recognizing courses, the Board developed an Annex to its Rules of Procedure, which helps the IBSC and the parent organizations to understand the process and ensures transparency and openness on the use of the funds.

The IBSC in its recent meeting decided on further details on the way fees may be allocated and the eligible expenses which are: members’ expenses to attend meetings and on-site visits to programmes and travel expenses for the participation of the IBSC chairman in the IRCC meetings.

All decisions made in relation with the fees will be part of a revised version of the Annex to the Rules of Procedures that will be circulated to the parent organizations.

The IBSC also agreed that in order to build the fund its members will not request financial support in 2011.

## **On –site reviews**

The IBSC conducted an on-site review to SkillTrade in November 2010. The course is a CAT B in Hydrography. Summary findings: Overall a good course, a well-run operation, very intense.

Concerns: Very limited exposure to MBES technology, poor library facilities, duration short to effectively teach this Cat B course. It was decided to prepare feedback for SkillTrade for IBSC approval, including any recommendation, to identify areas of major concern and any other comments.

### **Conducting on-site reviews**

It was considered necessary to develop internal guidelines/framework for conducting on-site reviews.

Members for future on-site visits to include: 3 IBSC members (minimum 2), notify the institution well in advance and agree timing, generic areas of interest (to include: coherent field course, documentation, facilities, etc.) any items of concern/focus, 2 days duration, meet with students (individually and group), to witness students in a learning situation – afloat or classroom.

Two institutions were identified as possible locations for future on-site visits.

## **Private sector & feedback sessions**

The Board noticed the increasing interest of the private sector in submitting programmes for evaluation/recognition by the IBSC and to the possibility of twelve (12) or more submissions for the 2012 meeting to include at least three (3) from the private sector and four (4) in Nautical Cartography.

It was also noted that there is interest from academia and industry for the IBSC to hold some open sessions to receive feedback and discuss the development of the Standards S5 & S8. The Board decided to include a standing agenda item for future IBSC meetings - an open session with industry, academia, etc. to listen and receive feedback on future requirements for development of the standards and submission process.

This will be a radical change in the way the Standards are developed and maintained and it will contribute considerably to their improvement and the transparency of the process per se.

## **Proposal for a new standards framework**

Recalling the discussion at IBSC33 in 2010 and the decisions taken therein it was agreed to separate Cat A and Cat B by developing two discrete parts in the standards. Work will start with the restructuring of S-5 and continue with this of S-8. This approach will clarify the situation, assist the submitting organizations to better focus to the essence/content of the Standards and result to the formulation of a much better profile of the students and future professionals. New standards when developed by the Board will be posted as a draft and invite feedback for a limited period prior to implementation.

Quite relevant to the above is to consider a modular learning experience (subjects) over a limited time period to accumulate a full Cat A or Cat B curriculum. The IBSC acknowledge there are various ways of delivering a Cat A or Cat B programme including e-learning, which is a reality and may be appropriate and adequate for some elements or modules of a Cat A or Cat B programme.

## Review of Courses

No	Course	Decision
1	S- 5 CAT B Turkish Navy Hydrographic Course of Turkish Navy Office of Hydrography, Navigation and Oceanography [TN-OHNO]	Submit a revised version of submission in 2 months or re-submit in 2012
2	S- 5 CAT A Specialization Course in Hydrography by the School of Hydrography and Oceanography of the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute (IH-PT)	Recognized on Condition
3	S- 5 CAT A Hydrographic Surveyors Programme of the Naval Academy of Colombia	Recognition extended until 31.12.2011
4	S- 5 CAT B Specialization Course in Hydrography for Navy Officers and Civilian Attendes of the Argentinian Navy Sea Sciences School	Submit a revised version of submission in 2 months or re-submit in 2012
5	S-5 CAT A Graduate Programme in Ocean Mapping of the CCOM/JHC University of New Hampshire	Recognized
6	S-5 CAT A Joint International Hydrographic Applied Science Program of the University of Southern Mississippi and Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command	Recognized
7	S- 5 CAT B International Hydrographic Management and Engineering Programme (IHMEP) by NAVOCEANO	Recognized
8	S-8 CAT B France SHOM school course in Nautical Cartography	Recognized on Condition
9	S- 5 CAT B France SHOM Course on Hydrography for Petty Officers	Recognized