

**11th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 5-7 October 2011**

**Arctic-Antarctic Seafloor Mapping Meeting 2011
Stockholm, Sweden, 03/05 May 2011**

Report by the HCA Chair

In conformity to Action Item 10/6 agreed at the HCA10, the HCA Chair was instructed to represent HCA at the [Arctic-Antarctic Seafloor Mapping Meeting 2011, Stockholm, Sweden, 03/05 May 2011](#) and to report its findings to the HCA11.

The meeting aimed at bringing together key actors conducting bathymetric mapping in Arctic and Antarctic waters. It was jointly organized by Prof. Martin Jakobsson (IBCAO) from the Stockholm University, Sweden and Dr. Hans-Werner Schenke (IBCSO) from the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany, under the name “Arctic-Antarctic Seafloor Mapping Meeting 2011”. This meeting was hosted by the Department of Geological Sciences, Stockholm University.

The International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) and the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO) are two projects aiming to compile the most up-to-date bathymetric portrayals of these two regions. The meeting was identified as a coordination mechanism to improve IBCAO and IBCSO and to discuss the uses and technical requirements of regional bathymetric compilations.

The opening key-note speech was given by the IOC Executive Secretary Mrs. Wendy Watson-Wright on “Why do we need to learn more about the Arctic and Southern Ocean?”. Around 50 people from 15 different countries were in attendance and over 11 oral presentations were given on Arctic Seafloor Mapping and 7 on Antarctic Seafloor Mapping. Also five presentations covered new data compilation methods and the situation on IBCAO and IBCSO, followed by separate breakout sessions on Arctic and Antarctic. In addition, a poster session was organized. HCA Chair briefed the audience on the “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in Antarctica”.

Both IBC projects got organized and their respective Editorial Boards Members identified. The coordination between these two IBCs and the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica, respectively, was considered vital for the improvement of the Sea Floor Mapping of these regions. Technical details and deliverables were also identified and its execution coordinated. GEBCO’s parent organizations, the IOC and particularly the IHO were recognized on the efforts made to provide support to the development of the projects. GEBCO Nippon Foundation Project was identified as a potential support for the development of an Antarctic project, aimed at the continuation of the bathymetric compilation work so far conducted by IBCSO. In order to follow-up and gain momentum, it was decided to have the next joint coordination meeting in May 2012, venue to be decided.

Hugo Gorziglia
HCA Chair