



2008

JANUARY - FEBRUARY BULLETIN

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REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

2nd COORDINATING MEETING OF THE EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EAHC)

Chiangmai, Thailand, 23-25 January 2008

The 2nd Coordinating Meeting of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) was held in Chiangmai, Thailand, from 23 to 25 January 2008. The meeting was attended by all the regional Member representatives: China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, The Republic of Korea, The Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Captain WARD from IHB attended the meeting and provided a briefing on the status of global ENC coverage and on various measures for consideration by the EAHC members. The Chairman of the EAHC, Mr. Parry OEI (Singapore) presided.

The purpose of this annual meeting was to provide direction and guidance to the EAHC Working / Task Groups and Committees; collectively address IHO or IMO related issues affecting the safety of navigation in the region; kick start new projects for example, the EAHC Capacity Building Committee meeting; monitor the progress of projects and to assign resources; and provide an opportunity for Member States to raise and highlight new concerns for EAHC's consideration.

Two key outcomes of the meeting were :

- a) To prioritise and assign the region's resources to work on ENC coverage, availability and consistency. This included work carried out by the EAHC ENC Task Group on the harmonisation of ENCs and to jointly produce a new edition of the South China Sea ENCs;
- b) To realign the EAHC's training focus towards "training the trainer" and to harvest the wealth of experienced experts from within the region as lecturers. This would help accelerate the EAHC efforts in its Capacity Building program. The inaugural training courses on Quality Assurance (QA) of multibeam surveying and QA of ENCs would be held in June 2008 to coincide with the 3rd World Hydrography Day's theme of Capacity Building.

The 3rd EAHC Coordinating Meeting is planned to take place in late January 2009 hosted by China, or alternatively Japan.



WORKING GROUPS

CHART STANDARDIZATION AND PAPER CHART WORKING GROUP (CSPCWG)

4th Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 13-15 November 2007

The IHO/CHRIS Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) held its 4th meeting at the IHB, Monaco, on 13-15 November 2007. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Dr. Peter JONES (UKHO), the Secretary, Mr. Andrew COLEMAN (UKHO), and representatives from the IHB and the HOs of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Spain and USA. The CSPCWG provides a core of expertise on the basic concepts of nautical charting and is tasked to address all paper charting issues.

The CHRIS-19 decision that the IHO publication S-49 "Recommendations concerning Mariners' Routing Guides" should be reviewed by the CSPCWG was acknowledged and this item was added to the CSPCWG work plan. The meeting undertook a review of various technical charting issues, including the depiction of sea boundaries and offshore renewable energy installations, as well as the development of an IHO paper chart symbol library and a new section B-600 of publication M-4 on the maintenance of paper charts. The meeting reviewed a report of the INT 1 sub-group and discussed issues such as definition for foul grounds, the adoption of Environmentally Sensitive Sea Areas (ESSA) as a general heading for environment-related symbols, the transfer from INT 1 to M-4 of the list of international abbreviations, and the inclusion in INT 1 of a combined INT 1 / ENC symbols document.

The meeting took note of the resignation of Mr. Jarmo MAKKINEN (Finland) as Vice Chair of CSPCWG and elected Mr. Chris ROBERTS (Australia) as the new Vice Chair. Agreement was reached on the new name for the WG: *Chart Specifications Working Group (CSWG)*. This will be submitted to the CHRIS Committee at its next meeting. The 5th CSPCWG meeting is scheduled to be held in Australia on 18-21 November 2008.

15th TSMAD WORKING GROUP MEETING

IHB, Monaco, 14-18 January 2008

IHB Director Captain Robert WARD welcomed the TSMAD Working Group members to the 15th meeting and to the IHB. He noted that the imminent release of the new Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Information (S-100) was generating significant interest, and he requested that TSMAD should endeavour to complete the standard as soon as possible. S-100 will be released for a trial period so that interested parties will have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the standard, and will be able to provide valuable feedback.

The meeting, which was chaired by Barrie GREENSLADE (UKHO), was attended by members from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, UK and the USA. Members from the following stakeholder organizations also participated in the meeting; CARIS, ECC, ESRI, Jeppesen, T-Kartor, SevenCs, HGMIO and IEHG.

By the conclusion of the meeting, the content of most of the S-100 component documents had been completed however their structure and layout needed further harmonization.



Members of the 15 TSMAD Meeting

WEND TASK GROUP ON ENC COVERAGE

IHB, Monaco, 28-29 January 2008

The IHO WEND Task Group (TG) on ENC coverage held a meeting at the IHB in Monaco on 28 and 29 January 2008. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the TG, Herr Horst HECHT (BSH, Germany), Mr Richard CARPENTER (UKHO, UK), Ing. en Chef Yves GUILLAM (SHOM, France). The Directing Committee and the technical Professional Assistants of the IHB, together with Mr Chris SMITH (UKHO), Ms Maureen KENNY (USA-NOAA) and Mr Jorma TIMONEN (Finnish HO) also participated in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed progress on the Task Group's analysis of global ENC coverage and discussed how this and related information on ENCs should best be incorporated in the IHO's submission to the IMO Sub-Committee on the Safety of Navigation (NAV54), when it considers mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS. The group also discussed the main elements of the IHO ENC Catalogue and its relation to other catalogues, as well as the responsibilities of IHO and IMO for updating the joint Primar/IC-ENC information paper "Facts about electronic charts and carriage requirements".

MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP (MSDIWG)

1st Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 4-5 February 2008

The IHO/CHRIS Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) held its inaugural meeting at the IHB, Monaco, on 4-5 February 2008. The MSDIWG was established by the CHRIS Committee following a decision by the 17th IH Conference in May 2007, to identify the Hydrographic Community inputs to National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI). The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the MSDIWG, Mr. John Pepper (UKHO) and representatives of the HOs of Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia and USA, and members of the IHB, plus an expert contributor from SeaZone (UK).

The meeting reviewed the current status of SDI development in each participant's country. It was noted that the EU initiative INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) will apply to European HOs. The meeting also supported the new IHO Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data, S-100, which was considered to be the relevant standard for marine SDI development.

The meeting agreed to produce an IHO SDI Guide, aiming at assisting IHO Member States in their dealings with SDI. It was agreed that the guide should cover all SDI aspects, including Spatial Data Strategy / Policy, People / Networking, Data Management, Frameworks / Standards, and Dissemination. It is intended that a final draft of the guide will be submitted to the 20th CHRIS meeting in November 2008 for review / approval. The meeting split up into small working groups to develop a questionnaire to assess the level of readiness of HOs to contribute to an SDI. A draft was prepared, which will be finalized by correspondence and sent to Member States. The following plan of action was agreed:

- ✓ 15 March 2008: Questionnaire completed, to be circulated to MS by CL.
- ✓ 1 June 2008: Analyzing all responses to the questionnaire.
- ✓ 1 August 2008: Drafting of the IHO SDI Guide.
- ✓ 1 September 2008: Initial draft of the guide to be completed.
- ✓ 30 September 2008: Final draft of the guide to be completed and made available as a CHRIS-20 document.
- ✓ November 2008: Review of the final draft IHO SDI Guide by CHRIS-20.

The WG has planned to meet again in mid-September 2008 to review and finalize the draft guide.



CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON IMPROVEMENT OF ENC COVERAGE AND AVAILABILITY (IN ASIA AND ITS ADJACENT AREAS)

Tokyo, Japan, 19 -20 February 2008

The Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) organized and hosted an International Seminar on Improvement of ENC Coverage and Availability (in Asia and its adjacent areas) at its headquarters in Tokyo, on 19-20 February 2008. The seminar was sponsored by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), which is part of the Nippon Foundation. Its aim was to review the current status of ENC coverage and availability to the mariner, and to identify the gaps and barriers in order to take appropriate actions to achieve adequate ENC coverage and availability in the Eastern Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) region by 2010. The Seminar was chaired by Dr. Hideo NISHIDA (Japan Hydrographic Association) and attended by representatives from the HOs of China (Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, plus a representative from the IHB.

Presentations were given on the current status of ENC coverage and future prospects at the global level (IHB), at the regional level (Chair of EAHC), in Korea and in Thailand. There is already complete ENC coverage for the waters of Japan, Rep. of Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. It was reported that all EAHC Member States have the means to produce and maintain ENCs and that there should be adequate ENC coverage by 2010 for the coasts of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines (through cooperation with the UKHO), and Thailand. Status of ENC coverage in North Korea is uncertain. There are three non IHO Member States, i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Viet Nam, where there is no indication of any ENC production activity. The EAHC Chair (Mr. Parry OEI, Singapore) offered to establish contact with them in order to examine how best to progress, possibly through the ENC-related capacity building activities which are planned in 2008 and onwards in the EAHC area, funded by the JHA and/or the IHO Capacity Building Fund. Also, the recently formed EAHC ENC Task Group should be helpful. The need for the EAHC to closely cooperate with the adjacent Regional Hydrographic Commissions, i.e. NIOHC and SWPHC, to address issues such as data consistency, was also acknowledged.

Concern was expressed regarding the proliferation and use of "unofficial ENCs", i.e. ECS data, on SOLAS vessels, and the need to address the users / ship owners on the possible consequences of continuing using such data was emphasized.

JHOD gave a presentation on the barriers and difficulties for ENC production and distribution, with a view to identifying and assessing appropriate measures to overcome those problems. JHA presented a diagram showing all ports in the EAHC area, which are visited by container carriers, and the availability of ENCs for each port. It resulted that there are still some major ports which have not been covered with ENCs. It was agreed that a comprehensive list of all major ports of the EAHC area showing ENC coverage availability would be maintained by EAHC. The Seminar supported that one stop shop should be set up for easy access by users. Also, that there is the need for HOs to resolve discrepancies and overlapping data among member states as well as to harmonize pricing policies.

JHOD, as the Permanent Secretariat of EAHC, is setting up a website which will publicize ENC coverage and availability in the region. A link will be set up with the EAHC page on the IHO website. JHA's President (Mr. Osamu OWADA) reported on JHA's ENC distribution and training / capacity building activities. In particular, he mentioned a 5-year project (2008-2012), supported by JHA and the Nippon Foundation, and organized by JHOD, to train technical staff of Asian countries on cartography and ENC production, with the project coordinator being posted at the IHB.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

IHO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The International Hydrographic Bureau was invited by the Government of Monaco to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme Civil Society Forum and its 10th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum which took place at the Grimaldi Forum from the 19 – 22 February in Monaco.

The IHO was offered a spacious exhibition area to display panels to inform UNEP participants on the role of the IHO, its aims and objectives. This appeared to be an excellent opportunity to promote the activities of our Organisation and to increase awareness of the importance of Hydrography in our forever increasing fight in the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

The UNEP Forum was attended by over a thousand participants. The mission of the UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.



*Directors' Secretary, Caroline FONTANILI and Office Manager, Rachid SEMLALI
Thanks go to Daniel MENINI for creating the display and Areski MACHE for his assistance.*

NEW SHIPS

NEW THAI HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL

“H.T.M.S. Pharuehatsabodi”

“HTMS Pharuehatsabodi “ was commissioned on 14 February 2008 and is scheduled to finish in May 2008. The ship was built in the UniThai dockyard at Laem Chabang, in Chon Buri province, by a consortium between UniThai Shipyard Engineering Co., Ltd. and Schelde Naval Shipbuilding from Netherlands.

The naming of the ship has followed Thai tradition and been named after a celestial body – in this case Jupiter – which is also the name used for the day “Thursday”. Accordingly, the ship first put to sea on Thursday 14 February.

The peacetime role of HTMS Pharuehatsabodi will be as a surveying ship operating in the specific economic area of Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. She will also act as a training ship and undertake various other environmental missions. During hostilities she would be used for mine-clearing operations.

Mission Profile

- Hydrographic mapping survey and oceanographic survey
- Survey for environment conservation of sea & shoreline
- Supporting the marine scientific research
- Supporting sea rescue tasks
- Supporting oil spill cleaning
- Supporting training of Mine warfare fleet
- Supporting the training course for students both inside and outside Royal Thai Navy.

Ship Description

Hull Construction :

The hull, deck and superstructure are constructed from mild steel Marine Grade A.

Principal Dimensions :

- Length overall 66.3 m.
- Length on waterline 61.3 m.
- Beam Moulded 13.2 m.
- Depth Moulded 6.5 m.
- Draught 3.25 m
- Displacement 1,344 Tons and 1,636 Tons full loaded
- Maximum Speed 12 knots
- Endurance 3,000 nautical miles at 10 knots.

Hydrographic Survey System:

- Exploration Computer System
- Multi Beam Echo Sounder (MBES)
- Single Beam Echo Sounder (SBES)
- Side Scan Sonar (SSS)
- Ultra Short Base Line (USBL)
- Motion and Reference Unit (MRU)
- Draught Indication System
- Tidal Measurement System
- Seawater Collection System
- Seawater Measurement System

- Expendable Bathythermograph (XBT) / Sound Velocity meter (XSV)
- Current Flow Measurement System
- Current Meter System
- Sediment Collection System
- 2 Survey Boats
- Oceanography Equipment

Capabilities:

Vessel will operate continuously without additional supply for at least 15 days. The ship will be able to operate under sea state 5.

Vessel will operate at the maximum continuous speed of at least 12 knots, at trial draught and 100% MCR (Maximum Continuous Rating of the electric propulsion motors). In the case of operating at low speed, the vessel will be able to operate at speed between 0-6 knots without creating interference signature to survey equipment.

Complement

- Ship Commander	1 person
- Chief officer and Chief engineer	2 persons
- Commissioned officer	16 persons
- Warrant officers	16 persons
- Petty officer	24 persons
- Privates	12 persons
Total	71 persons

