

Technical Visits to Vietnam, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam

13-24 March 2004

I.- General Information.

Program 2 “Capacity Building” of the IHO Work Program 2003/2007, includes as Task 2. 1. 7 “Carry out visits of Technical Cooperation to the following countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam during 2003-2005”, and Objective 2. 2. 1, “Encourage entry of new Member States”.

In late 2003, the IHB sent letters to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Brunei, informing the authorities of these countries about the intention to pay a technical visit to them, in accordance with the Work Programme approved by the Member States. Positive replies were received from Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam. Myanmar replied that they were interested in the technical visit but they were not yet prepared to arrange it and requested to postpone it. No reply was received from Cambodia.

The IHB prepared the technical visits, which took place from 13 to 24 March 2004. In accordance with the travel schedule, the first country to be visited was Vietnam, followed by Thailand and Brunei Darussalam.

II.- Participants and Programme

The participants were Capt. Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director responsible for Capacity Building (CB) matters and Capt. Federico BERMEJO, IHB Professional Assistant for CB and training matters.

1.- Technical Visit to Vietnam

Vietnam is not yet a IHO Member. The Vietnam Maritime Safety Agency (VMSA) coordinated the meetings held with the Vietnam Navy and the Vietnam National Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE) and organized the technical visit. VMSA appointed Mr Le Minh BANG, from the Technical Department of the VMSA, as liaison officer. The Deputy Director of VMSA and Mr BANG received the IHB delegation at the airport of Hai Phong.

The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Transport share the hydrographic responsibilities in Vietnam.

The Navy of Vietnam reports to the Ministry of Defence Navy and is responsible for conducting hydrographic surveys of all Vietnam waters, except in ports and channels, and for the production of all nautical charts. VINAMARINE is responsible for ports and channels and carries out port surveys with their local port authorities and channel surveys (over 700 kilometers) with VMSA. The Ministry of Transport through VINAMARINE and VMSA represents the hydrographic interests of the country at international level.

1.1.- Vietnam Maritime Safety Agency (VMSA)

a) Participants:

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| a) Eng. Mr Nguyen Van DOI, | General Director |
| b) Eng. Mr Tran Ngoc DOI, | Vice Director General |
| c) Mr. Le Minh BANG | Technical Department |
| d) Mr. Trinh Xuan NNHI | Vice Manager Technical Department |
| e) Mr. Nguyen Kim HAO | Director Hydro Survey Enterprise |
| f) Mr. Luu Van QUANG | Vice Manager Plan & Eco. Dept. |
| g) Mr. Ha Van BINH | Vice Manager of Tech. Dept. |

h) Presentations:

The programme included a presentation from VMSA and IHO. All the participants listed above were present.

The VMSA provided a very detailed presentation, informing about its mission and responsibilities, together with its organization and resources to carry out its tasks. The IHO presentation included a detailed explanation about the IHO, the international scenario, the IHO East Asia Hydrographic Commission, initiatives proposed and some experiences to be shared.

The following main proposals were put forward for discussion:

- To consider a permanent and active participation in IHO technical business, especially within the RHC;
- To take advantage of the IHO experience gathered in accomplishing international regulations;
- To maintain contact with the IHB to be updated on the worldwide progress of hydrography; to identify needs and priorities in capacity building and in new technologies and to consider becoming an IHO Member State.



Considering that the VSMA has a project to built four hydrographic units in the near future, the IHB delegates provided specific information on hydrographic survey equipment systems' distribution on board hydrographic vessels. The IHB delegation also provided VSMA with the S-55 Questionnaire to be filled up. An interesting discussion followed the presentations.

i) Outcome of the meeting:

Three clear requests were identified following discussion:

- To provide further information and support to VSMA to establish contact with Multibeam manufacturers
- To provide information on experiences and training opportunities relating to that technology; including courses implemented by the Indian National Hydrographic School, Goa, and IMA, Trieste.
- To provide written information on the procedures to follow to become an IHO MS and the membership obligations and benefits, to support their submission to higher national authorities.

At the end of the meeting, a CD-ROM of the IHO publications in digital format was presented to the VSMA, as well as various IHO brochures and publications. These documents were deeply appreciated. Finally, the crest of the IHO (small size) was presented to the General Director of VMSA.

1.2.- Vietnam Navy

a) Participants:

About 10 Officers attended the meeting that was organized at the Navy Headquarters. Among the participants were the Head of the Admiral's Staff, the Head of the Hydrographic Department and the Heads of the Hydrographic Survey, Nautical Cartography, Aids to Navigation, Oceanographic and International Divisions, besides other attendants. The language used was both English and French, as several officers have been trained in France.

b) Presentations:

The Head of the Hydrographic Department explained, with the help of a power point presentation, (see Annex C), the activities, responsibilities and equipment in use by the Navy. Emphasis was made on the prompt production of ENC and the willingness to progress in Multibeam technology. The production of nautical charts at different scales follows a 5 years plan. The Navy cooperates with other national agencies to the provision of marine safety information, as well as meteorology services. The Army provides them with cartographic basic information.

The existing equipment was provided mainly by France and its renewal is planned in the near future. Training has been followed in China, Russia and France.

The IHO presentation included a detailed explanation of the IHO structure and bodies. Special emphasis was made on the present international scenario regarding the obligation of Maritime States signatories of IMO SOLAS Convention. The importance of the IHO East Asia Hydrographic Commission was also highlighted and several proposals were put forward for consideration. Especial importance was given to joining the IHO as a full member



c) Outcome of the meeting:

A clear interest in becoming IHO MS was demonstrated by the Peoples' Navy of Vietnam, considering the geographic position of the country and the importance of maritime activities in their national development. They expressed interest to establish contact with other countries with a view to carrying out joint hydrographic surveys. The senior representative of the Navy requested more details on the contribution that Vietnam should pay to the IHO, and details were provided by the IHB delegates. The Vietnam Navy representatives also expressed interest in being considered for training opportunities existing within the IHO and in receiving additional information on Multibeam technology, as they are considering the purchase of such technology. The IHB delegates requested more details about this issue and invited Vietnam to identify the needs and communicated the result to the IHB for consideration.

1.3.- Vietnam Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE)

a) Participants:

- a) Dr. Nguyen Ngoc HUE Vice Chairman VINAMARINE
- b) Mr. Nguyen Viet DZUNG Director Inter. Cooperation Dept.
- c) MSc Trinh The CUONG Inter. Cooperation Department

b) Presentation:



VINAMARINE did not provided a presentation of its activities. The Director of International Cooperation explained that VINAMARINE is directly under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport, with VSMA as the operational organ in the field of hydrography.

The IHO presentation was very similar to that given to the Navy and included a detailed description of the IHO Convention, Regulations, structure and bodies. The international scenario and the obligation of maritime States regarding SOLAS V were highlighted as well as the importance of the IHO East Asia Hydrographic Commission. Several proposals were put forward for consideration and special importance was given to join the

IHO. The discussion held after the presentations had a more policy-making orientation.

c) Outcome of the meeting:

The Vice Chairman of VINAMARINE requested more details on the contribution Vietnam should pay, and details were provided. In general, the points raised by VINAMARINE were of an economic nature. Even though they expressed interest in seeing Vietnam as an IHO Member, they requested documentation justifying joining the IHO, in order to prepare a dossier to be submitted at the Ministerial level.



2.- Technical Visit to Thailand

The Royal Thai Navy Hydrographic Department (RTNHD) locally organized this visit. The IHB delegation arrived in Bangkok on 17 March. At the airport they were received by two officers of the RTNHD.

ON 18 March the IHB delegation visited the RTNHD and were received by its Director General, Vice Admiral Suchart. A meeting in which all the Heads of the RTNHD participated was held in the Conference room of the headquarters. The participants in the principal meeting were :

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| a. Vadm. Suchart Yanothai, | Director General |
| b. Capt. Surapon Tapananont, | Technical Assistant |
| c. Capt. Witoon Tantigun, | Director Oceanographic Division |
| d). Capt.Tanapol Vichailukkana , | Director Aids to Navigation |
| e) Capt. Preecha Somsukjaroen, | Director of Technical Division |
| f. Capt. Chakkrit Malikhao, | Director Survey Division |
| g. Capt. Sirichai Noeytong, | Director Cartographic Division |
| h. Capt. Mondet Puapaiboon, | Director Administrative Division |
| i. Capt. Puvadol Swangsang, | Director Navig. Aids Division |
| j. Cdr. Sommart Niemnil, | Head Technical Section and liaison officer. |

b) Presentations:

The Director of the Technical Division gave a presentation on the RTNHD. While reminding that Thailand was one of the founding members of the IHO in 1921, he explained the responsibilities, structure and activities of the RTNHD. He also made emphasis on their international participation and highlighted the problems they are facing and the assistance required.

The IHO presentation included a detailed description of the IHO organization, structure and bodies and the importance that the amended Chapter V of SOLAS, which entered into force in July 2002, had for Hydrography and the obligations in this respect of the signatory countries. The new IHO Capacity Building Committee activities in support of these obligations were also highlighted.

c) Outcome of the meeting:

RTNHD is totally funded with the Navy budget. Initiatives are underway and new funding is expected through external projects. Training was mentioned as a very important matter that deserves attention in two ways: by organizing a course at Cat B within the Naval Academy and a Cat A with the support of the Academic bodies. The production of ENC is on a trial process and 6 cells will be soon available. Nevertheless, training and experience in the distribution and updating of ENC was requested.

The problems identified by RTNHD were analysed and it was pointed out that improving the level of participation of Thailand H.O. in the technical IHO bodies might solve some problems. Support was offered to progress on the preparation of training programmes aiming at international recognition. Information was also requested on the idea to establish an IHO Trust Fund and a possible meeting with funding agencies as well as on the objective of updating publication S-55. Both subjects were explained in detail.

The main RTN hydrographic vessel is now becoming old (45 years) and it is planned to develop a project that would provide them with a new platform. Technical details of Multibeam echosounders, as well as on Data Management and ENC production were highlighted as needing IHO support. The IHB delegation committed to find and provide the information requested.



d) Visit to the Technical Departments:

A visit to the technical departments of the RTNHD provided a good view of the existing infrastructure and good level of development. Over 15 workstations are being operated by in-house trained personnel after a project worked with CARIS, USL and others. Nevertheless, the ENC production so far, results from existing digitized charts and not from new data. A project to incorporate a Multibeam system is underway, to improve collection of new data

e) Other matters discussed:

The Head of the Hydrographic Department offered full support from the Thai Hydrographic Office to develop the Capacity Building projects included in the IHO Work Programme for 2005 relating to Myanmar and Cambodia, including the participation of some staff in the technical visits scheduled. Further support was also agreed on the development of modules for the Hydrographic course in cooperation with the Thai Universities.

MB Courses – Training as a fundamental element was stressed by the Thai representatives, especially in multi-beam and the IHB delegates will discuss the possibilities of either have a special course organized in Bangkok or the attendance of Thai officers to a neighbour country's organized programme.

Manual on Hydrography – The lack of adequate texts for training in Hydrography was noted by the Head of the Hydrographic Dept. and he was informed about the progress of the IHO Manual on Hydrography that will be hopefully terminated by end January 2005.

The IHB Delegation received the clear appreciation for the technical visit paid, that certainly has created an excellent connection to improve hydrography in this region, considering the geographic situation of Thailand, that constitutes a hinge between the NIOHC and the EAHC. A crest of the IHO was presented to the Hydrographer.

3.- Technical Visit to Brunei Darussalam

This visit was coordinated by the General Surveyor of the Surveying Department, under the Ministry of Development. The IHB delegation arrived on Sunday 21 and was received at the airport by two officials of the Surveying Department.

The programme included:

- A visit to the Surveyor General, a courtesy call to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Development, Hj. Matasan bin Hj. Daud, and a visit to the Royal Brunei Navy on Monday 23 March.
- A visit was paid to the Marine Department (Maritime Authority) and a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication on Tuesday 24 March.

a) Participants

The participants at the principal meeting were :

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| a) Pg. Hj. Matusin bin Pg. Hj. Metasan, | Surveyor General, Survey Dept. |
| b) Hj. Hamidon bin Hj. Md Tahir, | Director of Marine Department. |
| c) Awg. Muhammad Diro Hj. Ayup
Awg. Farhan bin D.P. Hj. Abd. Ghani
Dy. Hjh. Fauziah Hj. Adb Hamid | Officers Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| d) Lt. Col (L) Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Tamit | Acting Fleet Commander, Royal Brunei Navy |
| e) Hj. Azmain bin Syawal | Senior Officer (Fisheries Dept.) |
| f) Dy. Mastijah bte Hj. Abu Bakar | Petroleum Unit, Ministry of Industry |
| g) Dr. Joseph Cheok Van Seng | Senior Officer, Oceanographer, Marine Dept. |
| h) Hjh. Salmahwati bte Hj. Mohsin | Senior Surveyor, Survey Dept. |
| i) Hj. Mahadi bin Hj. Mohd Tahir | Surveyor, Survey Dept. |
| j) Hj. Julaihi bin Hj. Lamat | Hydrographer, Survey Dept. |

b) Presentations:



The Surveyor General, Director of the Surveying Department, responsible for a unit dealing with hydrography, gave a complete presentation on the present national situation related to hydrography, as well as on the future. He informed that, last year, his organization has commemorated its 50th anniversary and explained the responsibilities and equipment in use by the Surveying Department. The Department, with the support of other agencies, prepares informative charts but nautical charts are produced by the UKHO. The National Development Plans provide guidance and goals to be achieved. There is a clear willingness to assume their responsibilities as a maritime nation.

A crest of the IHO was presented to the Surveyor General.

The presentation made by IHB delegation focussed on the IHO objectives and structure; the international scenario; the IHO East Asia Hydrographic Commission. Some initiatives were proposed and experiences shared. Among others, the following proposals were put forward for discussion:

- To consider a permanent and active participation on IHO technical business, especially within the RHC.
- To take advantage of the IHO experience gathered in accomplishing international regulations;
- To maintain contact with IHB in order to be updated on the worldwide progress of hydrography;
- To identify needs and priorities in capacity building and in new technologies, and consider becoming an IHO Member State.

Before the end of the presentation, a copy of the S-55 Questionnaire was handled to the General Surveyor to be filled up.

c) Outcome of the meeting:

The establishment of a national hydrographic office is under consideration, and this meeting gave the possibility to appreciate the importance and benefit associated with having this type of structure. The benefits that to become an IHO Member would provide to Brunei was the main point of discussion.

j) Visit to the Royal Brunei Navy:

Lt. Col Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Ramit gave a presentation on the organization of the Royal Brunei Navy, especially on the obligations of the Navigation Department. See presentation in Annex F. It is to be highlighted that the provision of UKHO products and their maintenance are the activities related to hydrography and nautical charts for which the Navy is responsible. In the near future, a new ship will be commissioned and they also state that ENC issues need to be considered as hydrography will be considered as an element on their developments plans. Training was identified as a key subject for their endeavors.

An interesting discussion took place in relation to new technologies and on the consideration to be taken into account when importing them. The IHB delegation will provide information on available courses that could help the Brunei Navy in achieving its goals.



e) Visit to the Marine Department:

The Marine Department (MD), among other responsibilities associated to maritime transport and control, is in charge of issuing Notice to Mariners. They collect information from national agencies and provide them to the UKHO for chart updating and also to Japan, as the NAVAREA Coordinator. Last year, the NtM issued totalled about 35. Discussion took place on the possibility to provide this information on a web page, an alternative that MD will consider. Capabilities to control dredging contractors was also an issue that was identified as important, and a collective approach among national agencies is to be worked.

e) Visit to Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Development and Communications

Both high level national authorities expressed their support to the initiatives to improve hydrographic capabilities and to formalize the establishment of a Brunei Hydrographic Office, concentrating in one unit the actual efforts being executed by several national agencies.

III.- Conclusions and Recommendations.

- a) The objective of the mission was fully achieved, advantage has to be taken of Thailand offer to contribute to organize during 2005 a mission to Myanmar and Cambodia, if the situation so permit.
- b) In this mission, the three focal points were very active and involved different national related agencies, making the visit much more productive.
- c) Training needs/opportunities is considered to be the common factor of the highest interest for the countries visited. Being aware of training opportunities and communicating these opportunities to all MS as well as NMS is considered of great importance to foster hydrography. Training matters should be given higher priority than nowadays within the IHB and IHO.