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ICC 2003 - 21st INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE
(Durban, South Africa, 10-16 August 2003)

Nautical Chart Display by IHO Member States
IHO-ICA Memorandum of Understanding
Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies

- References: 1] IHB Circular Letter 26/2003, dated 19 March 2003
 2] IHB Circular Letter 48/2003, dated 30 June 2003

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in the above-referenced Circular Letters, an exhibition of IHO Member States' cartographic products was held as part of the 21st International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2003), in Durban, South Africa, from 10 to 16 August 2003. International Cartographic Conferences, which are held every two years, are major events of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) (www.icaci.org) and attract many role players in the cartographic world. More than 700 participants were registered at ICC 2003. On this occasion, a new ICA President, Prof. Milan Konecny, Czech Republic, was elected. We are confident that the excellent relations that the IHB enjoyed with the outgoing ICA President, Dr. Bengt Rystedt, Sweden, will continue with Prof. Konecny.

The **IHO cartographic exhibition** was very successful thanks to the excellent support provided by the South African Navy Hydrographic Office (SANHO). Member States' charts/maps were presented in a special area kindly allocated to the IHO by the ICC 2003 organisers and the IHO exhibition generated much interest amongst the ICA conference delegates.

Cartographic products and/or posters from the following 19 Hydrographic Offices and the IHB were exhibited:

*Australia, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France,
Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian
Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Ukraine.*

A jury was formed to judge the IHO exhibition, chaired by the IHB representative, Michel Huet, Professional Assistant for Cartography, and including Prof. Konecny, and several ICA personalities. After careful consideration of all the displays, the jury decided, in accordance with a series of strict criteria, that the prize for the best exhibition should be given to two HOs presenting a large diversity of chart products, including ENCs displayed on a computer simulating an ECDIS, and permanently manned. The winning HOs were: **South Africa and Ukraine**.

The IHB wishes to thank all those HOs listed above for their participation in this exhibition and warmly congratulates the winners who will receive their prize at the next major IHO event, e.g. the Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in April 2005 in Monaco.

The other best displays, as selected by the Jury, were those of **Japan** and the **United Kingdom** and the IHB also congratulates these two HOs for their excellent contribution.

2. The IHB representative at ICC 2003 had the opportunity to submit a draft **IHO-ICA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to the ICA Executive Committee; this MoU had been prepared by the IHB to strengthen cooperation between both organizations, in accordance with the IHO Work Programme 2003-2007, Element 1.2 : Cooperation with International Organizations. The intention was to seek ICA's views on the principle of this MOU and on the content of the proposed draft. The ICA Executive Committee strongly supported the principle of a MoU with IHO and approved the draft text with minor amendments. A copy is attached in **Annex A**.

You are kindly requested to review this draft and to provide your comments, if any, to the IHB before 15 December 2003. If no adverse comments are received concerning this initiative by that date, the President of the IHB intends to sign the MoU, on behalf of the IHO, by the end of December 2003.

3. During ICC 2003, the **Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS)** held its annual meeting, with representatives from ICA, IHO, FIG, IAG (International Association of Geodesy), ISPRS (International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), ISCGM (International Steering Committee for Global Mapping) and IMTA (International Map Trade Association). In addition to the above organizations, JB-GIS also includes the International Geographical Union (IGU). The Minutes of this meeting, chaired by the then ICA President, Dr. Rystedt, were prepared by the Secretary General of ICA and are reproduced in **Annex B** for your information.

JB-GIS can be seen as a forum where areas of common interest to several member societies are discussed, and as a coordinating mechanism for cooperation. JB-GIS' objective is to increase cooperation among member societies and to provide an authoritative contact point for all agencies interested in geospatial information.

As you will see from the Minutes, Chairmanship of the Board will rotate annually among the presidents of each member society, with the ISPRS President, Dr. John C. Trinder, chairing JB-GIS up until its next meeting in July 2004, in Istanbul, Turkey, in conjunction with an ISPRS Congress. The IHB has offered to host the 2005 JB-GIS meeting in Monaco on the occasion of the 3rd EIHC in April 2005. It is therefore planned that the President of the IHO will chair JB-GIS from July 2004 to April 2005.

It has been agreed that a website will be created, if possible using the address www.jbgis.org, and that the JB-GIS postal address will be the address of the permanent headquarters of FIG in Denmark (Lindevangs Allé 4, 2000 Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, Denmark).

Any comments on this matter would be most welcome.

4. The next ICA Conference will take place in La Coruña, Spain, from 9 to 16 July 2005 (www.icc2005.org). It is IHB's intention to give IHO high visibility on this occasion through:

- Another IHO Chart Exhibition. Following the great success encountered by the IHO display to the world's cartographers, it is hoped that the next edition will see even more IHO Member States participating.
- Presentation of papers to the Conference by IHO/IHB representatives. The marine side of cartography has been clearly under-represented at ICA Conferences in the past and we wish to improve IHO participation. Ideally, there should be one or two sessions of the Conference exclusively devoted to marine/nautical cartography.

- Attendance at ICC 2005 by as many HO representatives as possible. In addition to the IHB, the following Hydrographic Offices were represented at ICC 2003: China, Ecuador, Finland, India, South Africa, Sweden and Ukraine. It is hoped that there will be far more HOs present at ICC 2005.

5. The IHB would like to once again record its gratitude to the SANHO for the assistance provided to the IHB in organizing the IHO Chart Exhibition at ICC 2003. The Bureau is confident that the Instituto Hidrografico de la Marina, Spain, will provide similar support at ICC 2005.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Encl: Annex A - Draft IHO-ICA Memorandum of Understanding
Annex B - Minutes of the 2003 Meeting of JB-GIS (*English only*)

DRAFT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
and
THE INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION (ICA)

1. Parties

This document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

2. Background

The IHO and ICA each recognizes that the other is an international organization with many complementary activities serving similar professional constituencies.

IHO is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 70 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardization of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics.

ICA is the world authoritative body for cartography and Geographic Information (GI) science. The ICA works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to contribute to the understanding and solution of worldwide problems through the use of cartography and GI Science in decision-making processes; to foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping; to provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography and GI Science; to facilitate the transfer of new cartographic and GI technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations; to carry out or to promote multi-national cartographic and GI Science research in order to solve scientific and applied problems; to enhance cartographic and GI Science education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences; and to promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography and GI Science.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organizations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:

1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organizations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest.
2. Each organization should inform the other of all Commissions, Working Groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate. In ICA the lead role in this co-operation is the responsibility of the Commission on Marine Cartography.
3. Each organization should inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Both organizations should identify opportunities to organise specialised seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship.
5. Both organizations confirm their commitment in the work of the joint FIG-IHO-ICA International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, which will be implemented under the rules adopted for this Advisory Board.
6. Each organization should invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective General Assemblies/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or ICA proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the consent of both organizations.

This Memorandum of Understanding can be terminated at any time for any reason by one party writing to the other party, signifying its intention to withdraw from the terms of the MOU.

Date: 2003

On behalf of IHO

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President IHB

On behalf of ICA

Professor Milán Konecny
President ICA

**Joint Board Geo-Spatial Information Societies
Minutes**

Place: Room 25, International Congress Centre, Durban, South Africa.
Time: Tuesday, 12 August 2003, 10-12.00
Present: Fraser Taylor International Steering Committee for Global Map
Gerhard Beutler IAG
Keith Murray FIG
Ammatzia Peled ISPRS
John Trinder ISPRS
Bengt Rystedt ICA
Will Teft IMTA
Michel Huet IHO
Ferjan Ormeling ICA

1. Opening by Bengt Rystedt

It is decided that Rystedt will preside the meeting and that Ormeling will take the minutes.

2. Adoption of the Agenda:

It is proposed to add the following items: joint dictionary, and special sessions at each other's conferences.

3. Minutes last JB-GIS meeting

Huet: Changes in the e-mail addresses should be accommodated, the matrix should be updated.

Trinder: that will be accounted for as this matrix will be changed anyway in 2004. He mentions feedback on the matrix was asked without results, except from Rystedt. The final minutes of Budapest (2/9/2001) and the minutes of Washington (22/4/2002) are both accepted.

4. Information from the participating societies.

Beutler (IAG) indicates IAG is a fundamental science for many of the activities in the SIS. IGS (International GPS services) developed into an IGNS. IAG has restructured itself because of the impact of the computer and GPS. There are now 4 commissions and a number of services, provided on the same level as the commissions. Next to those the IAG has projects, that should encompass activities of all commissions. At the top there is an IAG Bureau (Beutler, Tscherning, Sideris). In August 2005 there will be an IAG Scientific Assembly (in Cairns, Australia), and in 2007 an IAG/IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy.

Michel Huet (IHO) mentions that a new team of directors was elected in 2002, its next major conference will be held in Monaco, April 2005; specially convened to consider the work conducted and the proposal put forward by the IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) on the future of the Organization. Huet suggests the joint board has its 2005 meeting on this occasion. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been established by IHO jointly with the International Maritime Academy and International Maritime Organization (IMA - IMO), with IOC and ISO. Under consideration are MOUs with FIG and ICA.

There is a current attempt to align all IHO standards with TC211 standards. The IHO website has been designed anew. There just has been a conference on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) on its 100th anniversary that is why IHO is also interested in cooperation with Global Map. A new edition of GEBCO has just been issued on CD-ROM.

In October 2003 there will be an ECDIS Conference in Singapore, with IHO being a sponsor. IHO will also be one of the sponsors of the Geomatica Congress in Cuba, May 10-15, 2004. Answering a query,

he mentioned that the new edition of the IHO publication on the limits of oceans and seas (S-23) has not yet been completed.

Keith Murray: FIG primaries will attend the ISPRS conference in Istanbul, for the SIS meeting. New definitions for surveyors are forthcoming. FIG will have a regional conference in Marrakech (Dec 2-5, 2003), a working week in Paris (May 22-23, 2004), a regional conference in Jakarta (October 3-7 2004) and in 2005 a FIG-GSDI working week in Cairo.

Will Teft: IMTA was founded 1981 in Dallas, has expanded quickly and is now split up between 3 regional organizations (Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Asia and the Pacific), with each their own meetings. There are 900 active members worldwide.

Future meetings: September 2003: Santa Barbara (Americas), November 2003 Sydney (Asia and Pacific), February 2004 Global Conference in Tours (France). IMTA hopes for representation of all sister societies there. A members' directory can be found at www.maptrade.org. IMTA is also represented at the major book fairs.

John Trinder, ISPRS: ISPRS is registered now in Maryland, USA (as an international non-profit organization). An ISPRS foundation will be established, as a fund-raising organization to support the scientific activities. Larry Fritz is developing the relevant by-laws. It will be finalized by end 2003.

The next ISPRS Congress will be held in Istanbul, July 12-23, and Trinder invites the Joint Board for a meeting there. The congress will be used to overhaul the structure of the technical committees that have been stable since 1952. Remote Sensing has not really been integrated, so now there will be 2 remote sensing, 2 photogrammetry, 2 geoinformation commissions and 2 joint commissions. In July 2004 a new structure of the commissions will be voted, and the matrix will be adapted accordingly. ISPRS has now been granted full membership of ICSU.

Fraser Taylor, *Global Mapping*: Global Map is the project to produce a global 1:1 Million resolution generally accessible dataset. There is a 20 member international steering committee, the secretariat is organized at GSI, Japan. The idea for a global map started out of Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro). Each NMO has been invited by UN to participate in Global Map. 83 % of the land area is now covered. By 2007 it will be complete. ISCGM has a \$7 million capacity building and training program. Improvement of the website for data distribution is considered through a global portal. (through this portal it would be possible to link Global Map to GEBCO). Global Map is a highly specific goal, input from SIS is welcomed; it is envisaged to have a number of specific projects to which all can contribute.

Bengt Rystedt, ICA: ICA is registered as non-profit organization in Sweden. There are coming meetings in Genoa (CoastGIS, together with IGU), and international cartographic conferences July 9-16, 2005 in A Coruna, Spain, and August 2007 in Moscow. A Strategic Plan has been prepared for this Durban conference to be accepted.

Huet asks the e-mail addresses of those present to be circulated.

5. Mission and objectives of JBSIS

Rystedt asks whether the declaration made by the SIS members in Budapest is still considered valid. This is important as Laaribi of the UN Statistics Division and organizer of the UN Regional Cartographic Conferences wants solid contacts with the spatial information umbrella organization.

Taylor, *Beutler*: Joint board should take proactive action in UN to be recognized as the proper partner for the regional cartographic conferences.

Taylor proposes to start making the joint board a formal group, with an aim and objectives to increase cooperation and to act as contact point.

Trinder asks whether a better name for the joint board is desirable. We should not go beyond the mandate, however, but offer ourselves as contact point for the geospatial societies. With a formal statement we should establish ourselves as the formal board of the geospatial information societies, and for that purpose a letter of agreement is needed. This formalization also means a rotation of chairs. For 2003/4 *Trinder* is asked to chair, for 2004/5 *Huet* is asked to check that *Vadm Maratos*, IHO President, is prepared to chair.

Huet has no instructions for such a formalization, but acknowledges that it is desirable that we are recognized by the UN as an expert organization.

Taylor: we need to make ourselves more visible, without going into the direction of IUSM. We want to be the single most important contact point for geo-information. We consist of the presidents and secretary-generals of our societies. In our bylaws each of us has to change 'sister societies' to (geo)spatial information societies. If we want to be an important contact point, we need a permanent address; supposedly in Denmark (at either FIG or IAG headquarters), which would send the messages on to the current chair.

Taylor: a webpage should be established as well, and someone should be responsible for the correspondence: a secretary-general which would rotate every 3 years, but keep the e-mail address.

Trinder: we have to ask for jbgis.org, or, if that is unavailable, for jbsis.org.

Taylor: we need a one paragraph statement on what we agreed today.

Rystedt asks whether we can include ISCGM and IMTA, all agree. It is decided also to leave a place open for IGU if they want it.

Huet asks whether IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) might also be admitted, which is accepted, should they apply.

Digital Earth would not be admitted as it has no formal board.

6. Low interest amongst students for geomatics.

In Africa especially our field is in danger of disappearing. *Beutler*: IAG will address this issue in its Marrakech December 2003 meeting (December 2-5). This is too soon; the issue will be raised again in Istanbul, where *Trinder* will put it on the agenda.

7. Relation to other societies

The participants do not agree with GSDI's attempts to establish itself as another society in our field, especially so if GSDI wants membership dues from other organizations, instead of friendly relations based on using each other's expertise.

8. Any other matters

The statement drafted by *Taylor* is generally accepted (see appendix).

Peled proposes that *Trinder* sends it on to *Laaribi*. *Trinder* also will design a letterhead for that purpose (and circulate it to other members).

Trinder indicates that the letter has to be formalized by individual societies; this will be done by ISPRS next week.

-Dictionary:

Rystedt: tries to interest the other societies in jointly approaching a publisher. *Trinder* says they gave it up, as it was too much work. *Huet* indicates a web version will be on the IHO web for hydrographic terms. *Ormeling* shows the website of the Netherlands cartographic society with a dictionary of relevant terms in Dutch, French, English and German (definitions only in Dutch). It is accepted that

all societies shall prepare statements on what is available in the field of dictionaries /terminology for the Istanbul meeting.

-Accessibility: Taylor says the joint board should be more accessible, and should have electronic meetings.

Trinder: the postal addresses of FIG or IAG can be used for hard copy material; in the website a list server for the joint board should be established, which only members can access.

It is decided to have the FIG address first as permanent secretariat, and John Trinder as the first president until after Istanbul (2004), when Alexandros Maratos will take over, until after Monaco (2005)

-Sessions at each other's conferences.

This is not really discussed. *Ormeling* mentions ICA has a special session on electronic atlases at the forthcoming IGU conference in Glasgow.

9. Next Meeting:

July 2004 in Istanbul (Trinder will circulate the date set asap].

Appendix 1:

Websites:

www.isprs.org

www.maptrade.org

www.ddl.org/figtree/

www.iho.shom.fr

www.iscgm.org

www.iag-aig.org (prev. www.gfy.ku.dk/~iag/)

www.icaci.org

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Ferjan Ormeling	f.ormeling@geog.uu.nl

Appendix 2:

The Joint Board of the Geospatial Information Societies

Letter of Intent

At its meeting on August 12, 2003, the Joint Board agreed to formalize its existing activities and to make these visible and accessible to outside agencies such as the United Nations. The existing membership consists of FIG, IAG, ICA, IGU, IHO, IMTA, ISPRS and ISCGM.

The Joint Board will encourage other societies interested in geospatial information to apply for membership. Such applications will be considered by the existing board.

The chair of the Board will rotate annually over the presidents of each society. A website will be created, possibly using www.jbgis.org. The postal address will be the permanent headquarters of FIG in Denmark.

The objective of JBGIS is to increase cooperation amongst the societies involved and to provide an authoritative contact point for all agencies interested in geospatial information

The following organizations agreed to this statement in Durban, August 12, 2003:

FIG, IAG, IHO, IMTA, ISCGM, ISPRS and ICA

Gerhard Beutler (IAG), Michel Huet (IHO), Keith Murray (FIG), Ferjan Ormeling (ICA), Ammatzia Peled (ISPRS), Bengt Rystedt (ICA), Fraser Taylor (ISCGM), Will Teft (IMTA), John Trinder (ISPRS)