

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

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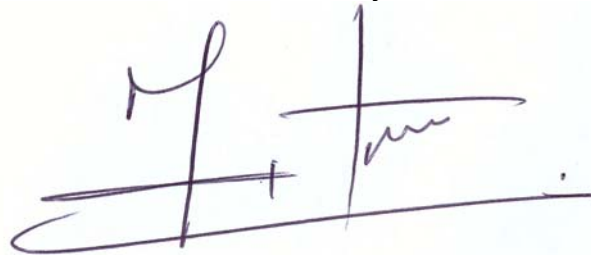
SPECIAL SESSION ON TSUNAMI DISASTER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

References: A CL 18 dated 15 February 2005
 B CL 31 dated 23 March 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The Special Session on the Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean, as announced in the References, was held at the Auditorium Rainier III on Saturday 16 April following the 3rd EIHC. Brief notes on this meeting, including the action items agreed, are attached at Annex A.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: Tsunami meeting brief notes.

The Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean

Following the conclusion of the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference a special session was held in the Auditorium Rainier III on Saturday 16 April to discuss the Tsunami Disaster which hit the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004.

The President of the IHB opened the meeting at 0900 and welcomed those delegates present. He explained the rationale for the meeting and the Agenda was adopted.

Those Member States who had been affected by the Tsunami made presentations: India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. Singapore reported on the 4-nations meeting (Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore) that will take place at the end of April to discuss the details for re-surveying the Malacca Straits. The President of the IHB made a brief statement on behalf of Malaysia.

(NB All presentations made can be downloaded from the IHB web site: www.iho.shom.fr > Tsunami Disaster Information for the Indian Ocean.)

There then followed a series of briefings / presentations on actions taken by the following International Organizations: IHO, IMO, IALA and IOC.

The USA (NOAA and NAVOCEANO) and the UK made presentations on the activities that they had undertaken in the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami.

The Chairmen of the EAHC and NIOHC reported on the outcomes of their Commissions' meetings that took place in February and March. A report on damage assessment and support requested / offered, prepared at these meetings and subsequently updated was presented.

Finally a draft paper on "An IHO Response to Disasters" was presented by the IHB, with comments made by Germany

A presentation by the Chairman of GEBSCO on the relationship between tsunamis and bathymetry was not presented at the meeting but is available for download from the IHO web site.

The following Actions were agreed:

- Indonesia to provide the information regarding the ports requiring survey work to be appended to the Resolution adopted by the EAHC, in order for the Bureau to coordinate actions for support.
- Tables showing Damage Reports, Requests for Assistance and Offers of Assistance to be maintained by the IHB (assisted by Captain Barritt of the UKHO). India to co-ordinate assistance from within the region and Germany to co-ordinate "out of NIOHC Region" assistance to recipient countries and report to the IHB for the information of all Member States. *(NB- an updated version will be maintained on the IHO web site.)*
- The IHB to update its draft paper on "An IHO Response to Disasters" to reflect the need for bathymetric data to improve prediction models and to circulate this paper to Member States for comment / adoption.
- Singapore to report to the IHB on the outcome of the discussions for the re-surveying of Malacca Strait.

The President of IHB closed the meeting at 1345.