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GEOMATICA 2007,
Havana, Cuba, 12-17 February 2007

IHO WORKSHOP ON
MARINE / HYDROGRAPHIC SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES
12 February 2007

- References:
- a) Circular Letter 88/2006 dated 22 December
 - b) Circular Letter 44/2006 dated 24 May
 - c) Circular Letter 119/2005 dated 30 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in the referenced Circular Letters a and b, the 5th International Congress **GEOMATICA 2007** (www.informaticahabana.com) took place from 12 to 17 February 2007 in La Habana, Cuba, under the general theme “*Geomatics for the development*”, with the IHO as co-sponsoring international organization. In conjunction with GEOMATICA 2007, the IHB also organized an **IHO Workshop on Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI)** on 12 February, jointly with the Cuban National Office of Hydrography and Geodesy, as a follow up of the IHO Seminar on “The Role of Hydrographic Services with Regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure” which was held in Rostock, Germany, on 8-9 November 2005 (re: CL in ref. c). The Workshop, chaired by Mr. Horst Hecht, BSH, Germany, addressed all marine-related aspects of Spatial Data Infrastructures, with focus on America’s concerns. Approximately 40 persons were in attendance, with Spanish-English interpretation provided.

2. Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos, IHB President, and Colonel Eloy Alum Ortiz, Hydrographer of Cuba, welcomed attendees and provided opening remarks. The Chair then explained the purpose, aim and expectations of the Workshop. The following presentations were given:

1. *Marine SDI to facilitate Sspatially Enabled Government and Society*, by Dr. A. Rajabifard, University of Melbourne, Australia.
2. *SDI: Policy, Process and Presentation*, by Mr. J. Pepper, UKHO.
3. *The IHO responding to MSDI requirements*, by VAdm A. Maratos, IHB, Monaco.
4. *S-100 : The IHO Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data*, by Mr. B. Greenslade, UKHO.
5. *A multiple perspective of an SDI*, by Dr. T. Delgado, Geocuba.
6. *Marine Information Objects: Use in ECDIS and Marine SDIs - Relationship to Current/Future IHO Standards*, by Mr. M. Huet, IHB, Monaco.
7. *SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean*, by Dr. T. Delgado, Geocuba.
8. *IOCARIBE Subcommittee's Programmes in Marine Coastal Sciences and Services: IOCARIBE-GOOS Observation System; why an SDI in the Caribbean?* by Dr. G. García Montero, Chairman of IOCARIBE and co-Chairman of IOCARIBE-GOOS.
9. *From SDI to GSDI with special focus on Regional SDI in Europe (INSPIRE)*, by Dr. J. Ratia, Finland, President of GSDI.
10. *Spatial Data Infrastructure in Canada*, by Mr. D. Nicholson, CHS.
11. *The European Union INSPIRE Project*, by Mr. K. Murray, Ordnance Survey, UK.

3. All above presentations have been posted on the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees > CHRIS > SDI Matters). Open discussions were held during the workshop and at a 60 mn round-table on 13 February, as part of Geomatica 2007, and the following recommendations were agreed:

1. IHB to communicate with the IOC and cooperate on the development of the spatial data standard S-100, with a view to facilitate marine/hydrographic data exchange.
2. IHB to advertise and promulgate S-100 to the wider spatial data user community, including land mapping organizations
3. The Workshop supported reinforcing the need for IHO to move forward on developing a strategy for designing and implementing Marine SDI, including an assessment of associated benefits to society.
4. IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions to have "Progress on Marine SDI Development and Land-Sea Data Integration" as a standing agenda of their meetings.
5. IHB to establish on the IHO website a special page dedicated to Marine SDI developments, including the outcome of regional workshops on the matter.

4. The IHB President also gave a speech at the opening ceremony of GEOMATICA 2007 on 13 February, followed by a presentation: "The IHO Supporting Maritime Demands". Throughout the congress, presentations were given on geomatic-related subjects at parallel sessions. Of particular note and interest to the IHO community were the followings:

1. "Worldwide Challenges of Spatial Data Infrastructures", J. Ratia (Finland), President, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - GSDI
2. "Re-engineering SDI to Support Sustainable Development", A. Rajabifard (Australia), Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration.
3. "Spatial Data Infrastructures in Latin America and the Caribbean", T. Delgado Fernández (Cuba) and J. Cromptvoets (Netherlands)

5. All presentations given at GEOMATICA 2007 are listed in the programme of this congress, which is available on the IHO website. Presentations can be obtained upon request to the Executive Secretary of GEOMATICA 2007 (Dr. T. Delgado, tatiana@geocuba.co.cu).

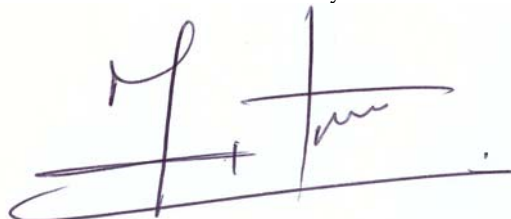
6. The next GEOMATICA will take place from 9 to 13 February 2009, again in Havana.

7. The IHB is grateful to the Cuban Hydrographic Office and Geocuba for their support in preparing the IHO Marine SDI Workshop, as well as to all those who contributed as speakers to the Workshop.

8. In order for the IHB to undertake the actions identified by the workshop, according to section 3 above, Member States are invited to provide comments **by 31 March 2007**.

9. Another opportunity for SDI matters to be discussed will be the workshop on "Land-Sea Data Integration" which will take place in Dublin, Ireland, on 21-23 March 2007. A notice and a draft programme for this event are on the IHO website.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President