



IHB File No. S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 60/2010
9 September 2010

2ND MEETING OF THE
IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)
- CHAIRMAN'S LETTER OF WELCOME

Reference: a) CL29/2010 dated 6 April 2010 - *2nd Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC); 26-29 October 2010, Rostock, Germany.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 2nd Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was announced in the reference. Principal papers for the meeting are now posted on the IHO website at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC2/HSSC2Docs.htm. All Member States and Observers are invited to study them.
2. All Member States and Observers, whether attending the meeting or not, are reminded that in accordance with the business rules of the HSSC, papers providing substantive comments intended for discussion at the meeting should be forwarded to the Secretary of the HSSC at the IHB no later than three weeks before the meeting. This is no later than **5 October 2010**.
3. The Chairman of the Committee, Captain Vaughan Nail, has prepared a letter of welcome to all delegates and observers intending to participate in the meeting in Rostock, Germany. His letter (in English only) is attached to this Circular Letter for forwarding to all those attending.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', is written over a white background.

Robert WARD
Director

Enclosure: Letter from the Chairman HSSC dated 9 September 2010 (in English only)

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Information Copy to: Prospective Attendees

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

9 September 2010

Prospective Participants in the 2nd Meeting of the HSSC

HSSC Chairman's Welcoming Comments

Ref: IHB Circular Letter CL29/2010 dated 6 April 2010 - *2nd Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC); 26-29 October 2010, Rostock, Germany.*

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite and welcome you to participate in the second meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), kindly hosted by the Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency) in Rostock, Germany. For those who have not yet registered, details are available on the IHO website at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC2/HSSC2_Rostock_Registration.doc

As you are aware, all technical elements of the IHO work programme are allocated to the HSSC. A key role of the committee is to agree on how the IHO's technical programme can best be achieved, by allocating work to Working Groups as appropriate, monitoring progress and when work is completed, providing Member States with recommendations for adoption. The HSSC also has another important role of identifying technical initiatives which are necessary to underpin the future strategy of the Organisation. I consider that we are well placed to balance the strategic implications of new developments with practical guidance on their implementation. Following the first meeting of the HSSC, working groups have continued with their busy programme of work and we will have the opportunity to review both their progress and future plans for standards development. It is unsurprising that with several major technical initiatives underway, as well as the gradual implementation of the new IHO strategic planning process, there are a number of high level papers which provide signposts to future ways of working which we need to examine carefully.

At this meeting, HSSC will consider the current IHO Strategic Plan and attempt to define the role the Committee can undertake to ensure that the purpose of the strategic planning process is achieved in a pragmatic and efficient manner. This may mean suggesting revisions to the Directing Committee on the methodology proposed, the measurement metrics (PI's), or the levels of responsibility that have been assigned. Practical business rules may also need to be established. I would also like to draw your attention to the paper introducing the proposed standard S-99 (HSSC2-05.1B), which provides guidance on practical management of the IHO Geospatial Information Registry (S-100). Although the new S-100 framework enables use of hydrographic data by a wider community, we must ensure that an effective, user-friendly and cost-effective regime of management controls exist in order to maximise the potential of the new model. I would therefore be grateful if Committee members would give advance consideration to the detailed draft of S-99 provided. We must also address some important safety-related issues which have arisen since HSSC1. In response, paper HSSC2-05.1C proposes a new procedure for the effective promulgation of ENC encoding information throughout the IHO.

We must also be conscious of related developments taking place outside the Organisation, which could be of benefit to our core mission. This year we will be receiving presentations on "Port ENC and ECDIS" and "3D nautical GIS", in order to provoke our thoughts on potential directions of development.

In order to perform the important governance role that has been given to the HSSC, I respectfully request that delegates prepare by studying the meeting papers in advance of the meeting. In order to

enhance our ability to offer concise and clear recommendations to Member States, I hope that all delegates will be in a position to express constructive and authoritative opinions on behalf of the Member State or the organization that they represent, when this is appropriate. The IHB, as the committee secretariat, has already posted the committee papers on the IHB website in accordance with the timescales laid down in the *HSSC Instructions for the Submission of Reports and Proposals*. It will be very difficult for me, as your Chairman, to make the HSSC effective if delegates have not prepared for the meeting, or do not have the authority to express opinions or to participate actively.

I look forward to see as many of you at the meeting as possible. Best wishes in your preparations,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vaughan Nail', with a large loop at the end.

Captain Vaughan NAIL
Chairman of HSSC