



IHB File N° S3/0104

CIRCULAR LETTER 53/2011
26 August 2011

**OUTCOME OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL
COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC3)**

Ref.: IHO CL 12/2011 of 4 February 2011

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The third meeting of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC3) was held in Niteroi (Brazil) on 26-27 June 2011, as kindly arranged by the Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation). The meeting chaired by Ingénieur général Gilles Bessero (France) was attended by the Chairs or Representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions, relevant Committees, Sub Committees, except IBSC and WWNWSC, and other bodies as well as delegates from eight individual IHO Member States and one NGIO accredited to the IHO.

2. The main items on the agenda of the Committee were:

- the status of approval of the Protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention,
- the development of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational chart Database (WEND),
- the implementation of the IHO strategic planning mechanism,
- the preparation of the IRCC contribution to the 18th International Hydrographic Conference.

3. The final minutes of IRCC3, together with all documents referred to at this meeting, are available in the IRCC Section of the IHO website. The list of actions arising from the meeting together with their current status and the list of IRCC Tasks for 2012 are provided in Annex. The most significant points discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

4. Status of approval of the Protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention.

The Committee noted that 30 notifications of approval had been registered by the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco as of 8 February 2011 and that positive signals from 20 IHO Member States had been reported through the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). The Committee agreed that it was worthwhile pressing for reaching final approval in time for the 2012 IHO Conference to be the first Assembly (i.e. a minimum of 48 notifications before 23 January 2012) and decided to invite the IHB to produce a reminder to MSs and also to request the Monaco Government to pursue this matter via diplomatic channels.

5. Development of WEND.

In the light of the modest progress in carrying out the work plan of the WEND Working Group, the Committee agreed on ways and means to prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of the WEND Principles for consideration by the IHO Conference (or Assembly) in 2012. The related actions require the active participation of the RHCs.

6. Implementation of the IHO strategic planning mechanism.

The Committee had an extensive discussion on the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and Planning Cycle. It agreed to recommend to the IHO Conference (or Assembly) in 2012 to postpone any revision of the IHO Strategic Plan to the next Conference / Assembly and to concentrate on the implementation issues. In that perspective, the Committee agreed a procedure to assess its contribution to the implementation of the preceding year's Work Programme and to collate its input for the preparation of the next year's Work Programme. The Committee also invited the IHB Directing Committee to start implementing the strategic level performance indicators (SPIs) approved by the 4th EIHC and discussed the working level performance indicators which are appropriate for monitoring the IRCC Work Programme and feeding into the SPIs.

7. Preparation of the IRCC contribution to the 18th International Hydrographic Conference.

The Committee tasked its Chair to prepare the IRCC report to the Conference (or Assembly) based on the reports and proposals prepared by individual IRCC bodies and in accordance with the guidelines provided by the IHB.

8. Other topics.

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) presented a report on displaying survey status which led the Committee into agreeing an action to design a suitable framework for the development of IHO Publication C-55 (Status of hydrographic surveying and nautical cartography world-wide).

Regarding the IHO Stakeholders' Forum, the Committee recognized the importance of ECDIS related issues and recommended to centre relations with stakeholders on them. It agreed that it was too premature to organize a Forum prior to or in connection with the IHO Conference (or Assembly) in 2012 and tasked the IRCC Chair to liaise with the HSSC Chair on the way forward, aiming at submitting a report to the IHO Conference (or Assembly).

The issue of further amending IHO Resolution 2/2007 to accommodate standards under the purview of IRCC has already been addressed by IHO Circular Letter 37/2011 of 17 June 2011.

9. Next meeting.

The 4th IRCC meeting (IRCC4) will take place on 7 and 8 June 2012 in Singapore as arranged by the UK Hydrographic Office in cooperation with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
IHB Director and IRCC Secretary

ACTION LIST AND IRCC TASKS AGREED AT IRCC3

[UPDATED TABLE 26 AUG 2011]

ACTION	LIST	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS 26 Aug. 2011
IRCC03/01	Implement actions to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline.	RHCs	Permanent. Report IRCC Chair 01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/02	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent. Report IRCC Chair 01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/03	Contact pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.	EAtHC with UK and France support and MBSHC with Turkey support.	Permanent. Report IRCC Chair 01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/04	Contact suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.	EAtHC and MACHC	Permanent. Report IRCC Chair 01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/05	Request Monaco Government to send a Diplomatic Note to governments of MSs that have not yet ratified the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in order to reiterate the importance of meeting the end of 2011 deadline.	IHB	As soon as possible	On going
IRCC03/06	Remind applicants and suspended States of the procedures to reclaim or obtain IHO membership, through Monaco Government, informing RHCs involved.	IHB	As soon as possible	On going
IRCC03/07	Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.	ARHC, EAHC, MBSHC, RSAHC, USCHC, SWAtHC	30 December 2011	On going
IRCC03/08	Resolve the definition of the southern borders of the ARHC and associated INT Chart scheme in conjunction with neighbouring RHCs.	ARHC	Next ARHC conference	ARHC 2 planned 27-29 Sept. 2011
IRCC03/09	UK to lead the design of a framework for C-55 development by correspondence.	UK(lead), CBSC, RSAHC, SAIHC, EAAtHC, MBSHC, MACHC, NIOHC, SWPHC, BSHC.	Report IRCC Chair 31 July 2011	On going
IRCC03/10	Provide as an example the MACHC action plan to other RHCs for consideration in promoting intersessional continuity.	MACHC	31 July 2011	On going

ACTION	LIST	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS 26 Aug. 2011
IRCC03/11	Incorporate in the periodic evaluation of the availability of ENC submitted to IMO (NAV) consideration on the impact of poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment problem, and other relevant factors.	IHB in connection with WENDWG	In time for NAV58	On going
IRCC03/12	Ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.	RHC	Permanent	On going
IRCC03/13	Report to the WENDWG Chair on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis submitted by the WENDWG	RHCs	30 June 2011	On going
IRCC03/14	Prepare and circulate to RHCs Chairs and IRCC Chair a draft report on the implementation of the WEND Principles, including feedback from industry. The Report shall also consider: a) the USCHC trans-boundary project as a technical solution for handling boundary issues in ENC production and b) MACHC procedure under development for checking the performance of a cross section of regional ENCs on an ECDIS in operational conditions.	WENDWG	01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/15	Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles.	RHCs	15 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/16	Submit to the IHB the IRCC report for consideration by the XVIII IHC.	Chair	01 November 2011	On going
IRCC03/17	Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.	RHCs / GEBCO	Permanent	On going
IRCC03/18	Update the report to IRCC Chair on the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010).	RHCs	01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/19	Report to IRCC4 on: a) their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005), b) strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.	RHCs	IRCC4	On going
IRCC03/20	Submit the amended draft of IHO Resolution 2/2007 to MSs for approval, based on IRCC3-04.1C.	IHB	30 June 2011	Done See IHO CL 37/2011 and 50/2011

ACTION	LIST	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS 26 Aug. 2011
IRCC03/21	Inform HSSC on IRCC views on the way forward in interacting with stakeholders and submit a report to the XVIII IHC.	IRCC Chair	20 September and 01 November 2011	On going
IRCC03/22	Provide IRCC Chair input for the preparation of the 2012 IHO WP complementing Annex B to IRCC3-06.2 as appropriate. IRCC Chair to provide input to IHB.	IRCC Members IRCC Chair	30 June 2011 Mid July 2011	On going See IHO CL 45/2011
IRCC03/23	Provide IRCC Chair with proposals to be included in the 2013-2017 IHO WP and Budget.	IRCC Members	01 October 2011	On going
IRCC03/24	Consider the appropriate level of participation in the RIO + 20 process, in line with the IHO strategic directions.	IHB with SWATHC	30 December 2011	On going

TASK	LIST	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
IRCC3 1/2012	<u>Inter Regional Coordinating Committee (IRCC) Meeting.</u> <i>Organize, prepare and conduct IRCC4 in conjunction with the CBSC Meeting, on the first week of June, venue to be decided, hosted by UK.</i>	<i>Chair with the support of Secretary and IHB</i>	<i>20 February 2012</i>
IRCC3 2/2012	<u>Preparation of the XVIII IHC</u> <i>Report to the XVIII IH (See action IRCC03/16).</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>At the XVIII IHC</i>
IRCC3 3/2012	<u>Preparation of Work Program and Budget 2013-2017</u> <i>Cooperate with the IHB in the preparation of the 2013-2017 IHO Work Programme and Budget to be submitted to the XVIII IHC (Assembly) in 2012. (Ref. 4th EIHC Dec. 5) (See action IRCC03/23).</i>	<i>Chair with the support of Secretary</i>	<i>01 November 2011</i>
IRCC3 4/2012	<u>Implement strategic mechanism</u> <i>Provide advice to IHB to review the implementation of the new planning mechanism at the end of each annual cycle in 2012. (Ref. 4th EIHC Decision 7).</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>01 March 2012</i>