



IHB File N° S3/0104

**CIRCULAR LETTER 99/2012
22 November 2012**

**OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL
COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC4)**

Reference: CL 25/2012 dated 20 February 2012 – *CBSC10 and IRCC4*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The fourth meeting of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC4) was held in Singapore on 7-8 June 2012, kindly organized by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) in cooperation with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). The meeting was chaired by Ingénieur général de l'armement Gilles BESSERO (France) and attended by the Chairs, or their Representatives, of all Regional Hydrographic Commissions, relevant Committees, Sub-Committees, except WNWNS, and delegates from nine individual IHO Member States.

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 status of the IHO membership
- the outcome from the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference (IHC)
- the inputs and reports from the IRCC Bodies
- the IRCC Work Programme management.

3. The final minutes of IRCC4, together with all documents referred to at the 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 2013 are provided in the Annex to this letter. 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 reviewed the list of Member States which had not yet ratified the Protocol of amendments and invited RHCs to aim at securing the additional ratification by a minimum of 12 Member States as soon as possible and no later than the end of 2013 so that the first Assembly may take place in 2014.

5. Outcome from the XVIIIth IHC

The main topics related to IRCC arising from the XVIIIth IHC that were discussed at the meeting were:

- the review of the CB Strategy, that is to be reported back to the 5th EIHC
- ways and means of enhancing C-55
- the implementation of the WEND principles
- the IHO Work Programme and Strategic Planning Mechanism
- the development of MSDI.

6. Development of WEND.

The Committee discussed the documents prepared by the WENDWG that were presented to the XVIIIth IHC and the Conference decision to send PRO WENDWG-2 (Implementation of the WEND Principles) Annexes B and C back to the WG for further consideration at its next meeting. The Committee agreed various actions regarding the monitoring of WEND and the provision of feedback to stakeholders in general, and IMO in particular.

7. Implementation of the IHO strategic planning mechanism.

The Committee noted that the Conference had agreed that the Directing Committee should work with the two Committees (HSSC and IRCC) to review the strategic performance indicators set out in the annex to document CONF.18/WP1/Add.2 before submission to Member States for their approval and to invite the HSSC and IRCC to review the operational performance indicators relevant to them and report back to the 5th EIHC. The Committee agreed on a limited set of basic and representative Working Level Performance Indicators (WPIs) suited to the IRCC component of the IHO 2013-2017 Work Plan and on a monitoring framework.

8. CB Strategy.

The Committee noted that the Conference had tasked the CBSC to review the IHO CB Strategy focussing on IHO objectives and to consider the financial implications, and to report to the 5th EIHC. The Committee tasked the CBSC Chair to report the revision of the IHO CB Strategy to IRCC5.

9. FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence (IBSC).

The IBSC Chair reported on the increasing number of programme submissions and recognitions, including the first regional scheme for individual recognition from the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP). The Committee also noted the evolution of the revision of the Standards (S-5 and S-8) and publications C-6 and C-47, and the two new members who had recently joined the IBSC.

10. IRCC achievements.

The Committee reviewed its activities and outputs since its establishment in 2007 and established a list of achievements attached to the report of the meeting.

11. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee elected Dr. Savithri Narayanan (Canada) and Rear Admiral Nick Lambert (UK) as Chair and Vice Chair of the IRCC for the period 2012-2017.

12. Next meeting.

The 5th IRCC meeting (IRCC5) will be held on 3-4 June 2013 in Wollongong, Australia, hosted by the Australian Hydrographic Service. Representatives of Member States who may require a visa are advised to submit their applications well in advance.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

ACTION LIST AND IRCC TASKS AGREED AT IRCC4

[TABLE UPDATED TO 12 NOV 2012]

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC4/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	Ongoing
IRCC4/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.	EAtHC MBSHC	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	Ongoing
IRCC4/03	Continue to engage suspended Member States in their region to encourage their return to full membership status.	EAtHC and MACHC	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	Ongoing
IRCC4/04	Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report details to the IHB.	EAHC, MBSHC, NHC and RSAHC	30 Dec 2012	
IRCC4/05	Create / introduce Region N in the IHO INT Chart Scheme	ARHC/IHB/ CSPCWG	Oct 2012	Ongoing following ARHC3
IRCC4/06	Comply with the CBSC Procedures and ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justifies expenditure associated with CB projects, and to seek any reimbursement, if needed, no later than one month after the event has been completed.	RHC	Permanent	Ongoing
IRCC4/07	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	
IRCC4/08	a) Circulate draft C-55 framework developed by Australia. b) RHCs to provide comments to Chair. c) Chair to provide final version to IHB	a) Chair b) RHCs c) Chair	a) 15 June b) end June c) 15 July	a) DONE b) DONE c) Ongoing
IRCC4/09	Consider amending Statutes of the RHCs in order to allow non-IHO MSs to host RHC conferences, when and if applicable.	RHCs	As soon as applicable	
IRCC4/10	Compile the RHCs best practices to be uploaded on the IHO Web site	UK	Dec 2012	
IRCC4/11	Investigate mechanisms for raising external funds.	Chair/IHB	Before IRCC5	
IRCC4/12	Complete document identifying achievements prepared at the meeting, to be included in the report. Complete statistical information.	Canada All	2 weeks 2 weeks	(to be included in the meeting report) Done
IRCC4/13	Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (<u>CONF.18/WP3</u>) according to Decision 13 of the XVIII th IHC	RHCs	Dec 2012	
IRCC4/14	Provide revised Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (<u>CONF.18/WP3</u>) to the IHB for approval by MS	WEND WG	Dec 2012	

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC4/15	a) Investigate, produce and provide the Chair with a draft paper highlighting ENC issues required to be reported to IMO and other high level organizations. b) Chair to circulate it to IRCC Members for comments. c) Provide this input to IHB for consideration.	a) UK b) Chair /IRCC Members c) Chair	a) July 2012 b) Aug 2012 c) Sep 2012	Ongoing
IRCC4/16	Review and propose amendments to the WEND WG ToR if necessary	WEND Chair	Dec 2012	
IRCC4/17	Circulate the paper " <u>A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability</u> " to RHCs to be used as an awareness raising tool.	Chair RHCs	As soon as practicable	Ongoing
IRCC4/18	Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme.	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Jan 2013	
IRCC4/19	Provide the IHB with the IRCC Annual Report for 2012	IRCC Chair	by the end of Feb 2013	
IRCC4/20	Review the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme in their respective work plans and report on suggested updates, if any, to the IRCC Chair	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Oct 2012	Done
IRCC4/21	Report suggested updates to the IHO 2013 Work Programme, if any, to the IHB	IRCC Chair	by the end of Nov 2012	
IRCC4/22	Request HSSC to task MSDIWG to develop an "introduction to MSDI" training course	IRCC Chair	Jun 2012	Done. See paper HSSC4/INF.4
IRCC4/23	Investigate the possibility to deliver an MSDI course with IOC and/or other organizations	CBSC Chair	Oct 2012	Delayed to Dec 2012 due to the change of the meeting
IRCC4/24	Report on the revision of the IHO CB Strategy	CBSC Chair	IRCC5 IRCC6	Final report to be submitted to 5 th EIHC
IRCC4/25	Incorporate in the periodic evaluation of the availability of ENC submitted to IMO (NAV) consideration on the impact of quality deficiencies, data availability, and other relevant factors.	IHB in connection with WEND-WG	In time for NAV59	(to be considered with IRCC4/15)
IRCC4/26	Check ROK funding total in the CB Fund for 2012 and amend the CBSC report if required	IHB and CBSC Chair	As soon as possible	Done
IRCC4/27	Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to, and the implication of, the mandatory IMO Member States' Audit Scheme from 2015	RHC Chairs	As soon as possible	Ongoing
IRCC4/28	Participate at the IHO Stakeholders forum organized by HSSC	WEND-WG Chair	Sep 2012	Done
IRCC4/29	Identify the need and content of a stakeholders' forum event to be organized in 2013 if necessary	IRCC Members	Oct 2012	Ongoing
IRCC4/30	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Before IRCC5	
IRCC4/31	Organize, prepare, attend IRCC5	Chair with support of IHB Secretary	IRCC5	Ongoing

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC4/32	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017	RHC Chairs	by the end of Jan 2013	
IRCC4/33	Report to the IHB Directing Committee on the IRCC contribution to the Strategic Plan monitoring system in the IRCC Annual Report for 2012	IRCC Chair	by the end of Feb 2013	

IRCC TASKS

No	ACTIVITY	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC4 01/2013 IHO WP2013 3.0.0 A	Organize, prepare, attend and report IRCC5.	Chair with the support of Secretary and IHB	IRCC5	See Action IRCC4/31
IRCC4 02/2013 IHO WP2013 3.0.0 B	Support the IHB to implement the IHO planning mechanism.	Chair	Feb 2013	See IRCC4-06.2 and Actions IRCC4/32 and IRCC4/33
IRCC4 03/2013 IHO WP2013 3.0.0 C	Contribute to the IHO Annual Report.	Chair	Feb 2013	Produce IRCC Annual Report 2012. See Action IRCC4/19
IRCC4 04/2013 IHO WP2013 3.0.0 D	Update and implement the IRCC Work Programme (List of Actions and Tasks agreed at IRCC4).	IRCC	Dec 2013	This document.
IRCC4 05/2013 IHO WP2013 3.2.11	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent	See Action IRCC4/01
IRCC4 06/2013 IHO WP2013 3.2.12	Encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention by approved applicants.	RHCs	Permanent	See Action IRCC4/02
IRCC4 07/2013	Secure the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention.	RHCs	Dec 2013	See IRCC4-02.4.
IRCC4 08/2013 IHO WP2013 3.4.3	Contribute to the development of C-55.	RHCs and Chair		See Action IRCC4/08
IRCC4 09/2013	Contribute to improving the framework of IHO response to marine disasters.	RHCs	Permanent	See IRCC4-02.2.
IRCC4 10/2013	Contribute to monitoring and improving the global status of hydrographic surveying.	RHCs	Permanent	See IRCC4-02.2.
IRCC4 11/2013	Contribute to the development of MSDI.	Chair and CBSC Chair		See Actions IRCC4/22 & 23
IRCC4 12/2013	Contribute to the IHO Stakeholders' forum.	Chair		See Action IRCC4/29