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REPORT OF THE FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers held its 35th meeting from 21st to 31st of May at the Sea Sciences School, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

List of participants:

IHO: Capt. Andrew Armstrong, Prof. Delf Egge – Vice Chair I, Prof. Nicolas Seube

FIG: Mr. Adam Greenland, Mr. Gordon Johnston, Prof. Razali Mahmud – Vice Chair II, Prof. Keith Miller

ICA: Mr. Ron Furness, Prof. Lysandros Tsoulos – Chair

Secretary: Captain Alberto Neves [IHO]

Apologies: Cdre K. N. Nair [IHO]

1. Chairman's report

- a. Replacement of Prof. Luciano Surace [IHO] and that of the late David Neale [FIG] and welcome to the new IBSC members Prof. Nicolas Seube and Prof. Keith Miller.
- b. Welcome to the new Secretary of the Board, Captain Alberto Neves who was appointed in May 2011. Reference to the meeting of Chairman and the Secretary at the IHB in June 2011.
- c. Report on the subjects included in the report to the IRCC3 meeting and the outcome of that meeting.
- d. Funding requested from IHO by the IBSC in the Corporate Affairs and IRCC sections of the 2013 - 2017 work programme, for the development of the new S-5 & S-8 framework and the revision of C-6 & C-47. The Board is to organize the project plan to be submitted to the IHB for approval. The project plan is to put in order the project over a period of three to four years to speed up the process of the development of the new standards.
- e. Report on the activities and plans of the IBSC to the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference.
- f. Report on the extraordinary meeting of the IBSC working group to draft the initial ideas for the new version of S-5 that took place in New Zealand in February. The chairman acknowledged the report of this meeting that will be discussed in detail by the Board as scheduled during the second week.
- g. Comment on the new standards: when they are made available to the international hydrographic community will constitute a milestone for the education of Hydrographers and Nautical Cartographers.
- h. Reference to the growing interest of the public and the private sector in submitting programmes for evaluation/recognition by the IBSC and the increasing number of submissions under review/recognition each year [see list of courses reviewed and tentative list of course for review in 2013].

2. Administrative issues

The Board:

- a. Unanimously elected Prof. Delf Egge [IHO] as Vice Chairman I to fill the post of Prof. Luciano Surace who resigned after the 34th IBSC meeting.
- b. Decided to update paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedures in order to better reflect the election process.
- c. Adopted the fund request form as proposed by Vice Chairman II Prof. Razali Mahmud. This form will be used by the members of the Board whenever they ask for financial assistance for the activities foreseen in the Annex to the Rules of Procedures (Document entitled "Course recognition Fees").
- d. Decided to include a standing agenda item to review the Annual Reports of Institutions offering recognized programmes.

3. On-site reviews

According to the decision taken at the IBSC 34th meeting, the Board discussed in detail the on-site review process and developed internal guidelines/framework for conducting on-site reviews. The discussion was based on the document prepared by the chairman that was a compilation of the best practices followed internationally for on-site reviews in the academia. The Board – taking into account the distinctive characteristics of the institutions offering programmes in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography - developed a process that is suitable for these programmes.

The following documents were drafted and agreed by the Board:

- a. The *"IBSC On-Site Review"*. This document describes the: Scope, Purpose, Prerequisites for the Review, activities of the review team when an on-site review is conducted and the way the relevant review report will be prepared according to the findings of the review team. This document will be made available to the institutions where a review has been scheduled well in advance the arrival of the review team.
- b. The *"IBSC Review Team Guidelines"*. This is an internal to the IBSC document, elaborating on the on-site review process. It will be used as a guide and it is designed to assist the review teams in identifying factors for consideration within the review process.
- c. A new version of the suggested template offered at S-5 Appendix V and S-8 Appendix IV on the content of the internal reviews conducted by the institutions offering recognized programmes.
- d. A revised version of paragraph 3.2.4 of both standards to reflect and accommodate the on-site process as described in the above mentioned documents.

Two (2) programmes were identified for on-site review later this year along with the composition of the review teams. The expenses associated with the on-site reviews will be covered by the IBSC fund (a third review visit will depend on the availability of funds).

4. Misuse of recognition certificates

Consideration of the SkillTrade programme certification: Report on the problem of the inappropriate reference made to SkillTrade's Cat B programme by HydroGeo and that of the Offshore Maritime Academy that made reference to the same programme in their web site. The documents related to the case along with the correspondence with SkillTrade were analyzed by the Board. The letter from the Hydrographer of the Netherlands was also carefully considered. The general feeling has been that the company (SkillTrade) is accountable to ensure that this misuse will not reoccur.

Decisions:

- a. Letter to SkillTrade - with copy to the Netherlands' Hydrographer - emphasizing that no future misuses will be tolerated. The company is expected to remove the certificate of recognition to their programme from their website to prevent any future misuse and take any other action they consider appropriate.

b. Addition of a new paragraph 3.3.4 to both Standards as a preventive measure against future misuses to read:

"Use of Category A and/or Category B recognition awarded by the Board in promotional or advertising material is reserved for use by institutions in association with programmes so recognized by the Board".

5. Restructuring of the Standards

Following the decision of the 34th IBSC meeting and the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of the IBSC working group that took place in New Zealand to draft the initial ideas for the new version of S-5, the Board discussed extensively all issues associated with this long term and very important for the international hydrographic/cartographic community project.

At first place the Board discussed the rationale for re-structuring both standards. The rationale was agreed and adopted unanimously. According to the rationale the standards will be structured in two separate parts:

- a. Part I for Category B Hydrographers/Nautical Cartographers and
- b. Part II for Category A Hydrographers/Nautical Cartographers.

This part of the S-5 will have a completely new structure which - amongst others - will be based on the proposal of the ex IBSC member Prof. Luciano Surace.

In order to work efficiently on the development of S-5, the Board members were split in three groups according to their geographic distribution. It was acknowledged that there is a need for coordination of the work of the subgroups and the extra meetings associated with this work. In order to facilitate a holistic approach, the Board named Prof. Keith Miller as coordinator of the S-5 project. The development of the new version of S-8 was assigned to the two ICA members.

A time schedule for the development of both standards was set and the project plan to be submitted to the IHB for approval was agreed. Considerable work was done on the new S-5 CAT B syllabus during the meeting, which will continue according to the project plan.

6. Courses Reviewed

Considerable effort was made by the Secretary well before the meeting to have representatives from the submitting institutions available during the meeting. This was achieved in most cases and contributed significantly to the review process. The Board members consider the presence of representatives of submitting organizations as necessary - if not indispensable - and urge organizations which plan to submit programmes in the future to seriously consider their representation at the IBSC meetings (see table)

7. Feedback session - Presentation

Hydrographic Academy presentation (University of Plymouth): Dr. Richard Thain presented details of the structure of the University of Plymouth (UoP) Cat A and B programmes based mainly on distance learning. It was considered as a prospective presentation in their effort to get assistance from the Board to improve the future official submission.

The following points indicate the response of the Board:

- a. It is not possible for the Board to assess the programme as presented because the presentation covered only the structure of the programme and did not provide sufficient detail (e. g. entry requirements, syllabus and delivery, assessment strategy, programme capacity, staff list, facilities, communication strategy).
- b. The duration of the on-site practical exercises and the field training project do not comply with item 2.5 of the Standards.
- c. The need to delete any reference to IBSC Cat A and Cat B recognition as no recognition has been granted.

#	Institution	CAT	Op/Sp	Programme	Decision
	Hydro				
1	Dalian Naval Academy, China	A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Hydrography	Conditional re-recognition
2	Royal Navy Flag Officer Sea Training, UK	B	6	HM2 Course	Not re-recognized Granted one year extension
3	Hydrographic Institute, Portugal	B	1,2	Technical Course in Hydrography	Re-recognized
4	Peruvian Navy	B	1,2,5,7	Course in Hydrography	Conditional re-recognition
5	Spanish Hydrographic Institute	A	1,6	Specialization Course	Granted one year extension
6	Bangladesh Navy	B		Basic Hydrographic Course	Granted one year extension
7	STET Maritime Pte Ltd, Singapore	B	1,2	Hydrographic Surveying Course	Not recognized
8	Naval Academy of Colombia	A		Hydrographic Surveyors Programme	Not re-recognized Granted one year extension
9	General Commission for Survey (GCS), Saudi Arabia	B	1,2	Hydrography Surveying	Conditional recognition
10	Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department Japan CG	B		Hydrography for Charting, Disaster Prevention and Environmental Protection	New Title approved
	National Schemes Hydro				
1	AHSCP, Australia	I		Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Scheme	Recognized
	Carto				
1	Dalian Naval Academy, China	A	1,2	Programme for Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Cartography	Re-recognized
2	Argentinean Navy Sea Sciences Academy	A	2	University Degree in Cartography	Recognized
3	IIC Technologies Academy, India	B	1	Course in Nautical Cartography	Conditional recognition

8. Finance report

The Secretary presented the financial report prepared by the funding group. He referred to some obstacles he faced in working with the account manager and suggested alternative solutions.

The Board adopted the finance report and approved members' request for financial support. Requests that will be submitted in writing after the meeting will be considered by the funding group taking into account inter alia the assessment of the amount needed for the on-site reviews scheduled this year.

9. Programmes to Review in 2013 (tentative)

#	PROGRAMME	Last recognition	Years recognized
1	Course in Hydrography for Naval Officers of Indonesian Navy (SEHIDRAL)	2006	7
2	Cat A Hydrographic Specialist Course of the Indian National Hydrographic School - Goa, India	2006	7
3	Cat B (Free) Course In Hydrography - Goa, India	2006	7
4	Course in Hydrography (HYDRO I) of the University Technology Malaysia	2007	6
5	Programme in Hydrography of Maritien Institut Willem Barentsz Amsterdam	2007	6
6	Ocean Science Course of the Japanese Coast Guard School	2007	6
7	Course in Hydrography for Petty Officers of the Spanish Hydrographic Institute	2007	6
8	"Patent Superior Technician in Hydrography" of the Tunisian H.O	2007	6
9	Hydrographic Surveyors Programme of the Naval Academy of Colombia	2007	6
10	UK Royal Navy HM2 Course	2003	10
11	Specialization Course of the Spanish Hydrographic Institute	2005	8
12	Basic Hydrographic Course of the Bangladesh Navy	2005	8
13	CAT B STET Maritime Pte Ltd Hydrographic Surveying Course	New	

10. Venue – date of the next meeting

The Board decided that the next meeting should preferably take place at the location of an Institute offering recognized programme(s) in order to enable the on-site review of the programme(s). The Board taking into account the invitations received during the meeting, decided that the 36th meeting will take place at the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute in April 2013. The duration of this meeting will be two weeks but it will depend on the number of submissions to be reviewed and the progress that will have been done on the development of the new Standards.