

**9th IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
Niteroi, Brazil, 23-25 May 2011.**

**CAPACITY BUILDING ASSESSMENT - TECHNICAL VISITS**

**1. Visits paid since CBSC8**

The following approved technical visits were paid:

- 1) El Salvador. (September 2010) (IHB Director)
  - Report available in the IHO website
- 2) Vietnam (November 2010). (EAHC Team)
  - Report available in the IHO website
- 3) Georgia (December 2010). (MBSHC Team + IHB PA)
  - Draft Report at the IHB. Final Report is waited.
- 4) Cook Islands ( February 2011). ( SWPHC + IHB Director)
  - Draft Report at the IHB. Final Report is waited.

**2. Main conclusions / recommendations of each of these visits are:**

**1) El Salvador**

It was confirmed the non-existence of a technical unit responsible for hydrographic affairs. The recommendations made in 2004 have not been implemented, but sporadic participation in MACHC meetings and IHO courses indicates a positive change in attitude with respect of the importance assigned to hydrography. A national hydrographic committee does not exist, but the visit was paid to all main stakeholders.

Recommendations were offered at two different levels. It was urgently recommended to consider establishing a unit to deal with MSI; to establish a NHC; to participate at the MACHC meetings and to establish a Hydrographic unit within the existing organization of the Instituto Geografico y del Catastro Nacional. Other recommendations to be considered included the strengthening of the hydrographic capabilities through the training opportunities IHO offers; to define a national cartographic and related hydrographic plan and finally to keep close contact with the IHB and the MACHC.

**2) Vietnam**

The visit included a complete presentation of the organization of the 2 VMSs, as well as a presentation introducing the works of IHO, EAHC, and the procedure of IHO membership application. After such presentations a discussion was carried out on the Vietnamese ENC production and EAHC assistance provision, other future cooperation and assistance between Vietnam and EAHC, personnel capability building, and closer participation of VMSs in the EAHC hydrographic activities. It can be concluded that from the visit a better understanding of organizational structure of the national hydrographic work of Vietnam exists. The hydrographic work development and cooperation is seen to be enhanced and progressive and it is recommended to further progress in this line.

**3) Georgia**

The visit confirmed that there is no National Hydrographic Committee bringing together all parties interested in either using or collecting hydrographic information. Currently exists a limited hydrographic capability with a small dedicated and enthusiastic staff but requiring formal hydrographic and cartographic training. Currently they do not possess the necessary tools and experience for chart production and they will need appropriate training.

It was recommended to participate fully in the activities of the MBSHC and to consider applying for membership of the IHO. To give consideration to the formation of a National Hydrographic Committee and

to continue with equipment purchase and training as it was discussed. To arrange for the dissemination of MSI via both national and international services, to establish a chart scheme to cover Georgian waters and to establish a prioritised survey plan to update the information required for the charts.

**4) Cook Islands**

It was concluded that Cook Islands does not appear currently to be meeting its international treaty obligations to ensure that appropriate hydrographic services are in place. The development of an in-country hydrographic data gathering capability is not currently seen as an economically sustainable option. There is an urgent need for the development of a prioritised survey programme. It is unrealistic in the current circumstances to consider establishing an in-country chart production facility and there are signs that the lack of up to date charting is actually impeding growth and the efficiency of maritime trade. It was recommended to formally designate a national MSI coordinator and to seek associate membership at the SWPHC and consider applying for membership of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). Also to formally establish a national hydrographic governance structure, a close liaison with HOs in the region, particularly New Zealand and to form a national hydrographic consultative committee to coordinate national hydrographic requirements.

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