

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CBSC (CBSC14)**24-26 May 2016, UAE****Paper for information of the CBSC****Report of Italy**

Submitted by: ITALY

Executive Summary: This paper is a report of Italian CB activities and projects to CBSC14

Reference: IHO Capacity Building Strategy v2.0

Introduction - Background

This report is a brief description of Italian CB activities.

Analysis – Discussion

Since it was founded almost 145 years ago, the IIM has always devoted time and resources to the training of hydrographers and the promotion of hydrographic know-how and capacity building.

In time, Cat. A and Cat. B courses at the IIM have been attended by future hydrographers from Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia, Vietnam and so on. The first foreign attendees were from Norway, in the 1930ies.

Furthermore, the IIM actively supported countries such as Libya and Albania in surveying their national waters.

Presently, following a bilateral agreement between Navies, the IIM is involved in the training of hydrographers and the procurement of survey equipment toward the development of a Lebanese Hydrographic Office. The effort, in terms of human and financial resources, is remarkable – for instance the survey boat equipped with hydrographic instruments that the Italian Navy has given Lebanon cost more than 610.000 euros.

It is worth it, however, because the Mediterranean and Black Sea may account for only 2% of the total sea area in the world, but for over 20% of the overall commercial ship transports in the world, and cooperation and mutual support are crucial. Safety of navigation, coastal management, environmental protection depend on accurate and thorough surveys.

In the MBS area there are 26 countries and 15 different languages are spoken. Only 4 countries hold internationally recognized Cat. A and Cat. B courses - France, Spain, Turkey and Italy. Traditionally,

courses were held in the language of the respective countries, and it was hard for foreigners to attend them. The only exception was France, as French is spoken in most African countries.

Due to language barriers, therefore, the supply was not sufficient against a very high demand. Courses needed to be made easier for foreign students to attend, albeit keeping the same quality standards.

The IIM studied a new curriculum to make it more in line with international standards and, with the University of Genoa, designed a new Cat. A course and a new Cat. B course – to be held in English - to suit the needs of future hydrographers from abroad.

Most professors are from the IIM and University of Genoa, but the faculty includes nationally and internationally known researchers from other universities and research centers.

Since 2014 the IIM has been holding both courses in English not only to accommodate for foreign attendees but also to provide a more international environment for all students.

Currently, the IIM provides two courses:

Cat. A: 14 months, including 2 months of training on board of survey ships;

Cat. B: 10 months, including 1.5 months of training on board of survey ships or survey boats;

Both courses, in cooperation with the University of Genoa, accept a limited number of attendees (15).

The Cat. A course is open to graduates in a number of scientific subjects of all nationalities, both military and civilian, whereas the Cat. B course is for military attendees only. This is something that we would like to change – we are working towards a new Cat. B course open to civilians, too. To this purpose, we are re-designing the course with the International Maritime Safety Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA), recognized by the IMO. With IMSSEA the IIM had already developed courses to train officers of merchant ships in the use of ECDIS.

The curriculum will be the one we submitted last year to the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, but the logistics of this new Cat. B course will be radically changed. The idea is to provide a campus-like facility with student accommodation at competitive prices (approximately 50 €/day) in a converted historic building surrounded by a 35.000 square meter estate with access to the sea. This is particularly important, as it will make it easier to use survey vessels for practical sessions.

Hopefully, the campus will be ready for our next course in 2017.

Action Required of CBSC

The CBSC is invited to take note of this report.

The CBSC is invited to disseminate through the IHO community the information of these facilities. The CBSC may also consider instituting grants for foreign students from those Countries which most need trained hydrographers.