



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
CAPACITY BUILDING SUB COMMITTEE (CBSC)

Paramaribo, 7 June 2017

CBSC15-04A

15th IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
Paramaribo, Suriname, 7-9 June 2017
CHAIRMAN REPORT

The work of the CBSC progresses steadily. At the same time new demands and unsolved issues are on our list of work items. The report will concentrate on the main topics since the last meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

1. Strategy

The revised Capacity Building Strategy proves to be very efficient and the implementation of the regulations laid down there are very helpful in the progress of our CB work.

The CB Strategy is a living document and we will have to review it regularly. This is a topic on our standing agenda and at this meeting we will have to take a closer look at the e-learning part. In my view we can adjust the Strategy or its interpretation to a certain extent before we start a new adoption procedure via the Council and/or Assembly.

2. Assembly 1

Only a few weeks ago the first Assembly took place in Monaco. Capacity Building played its role as one of the strategic topics of the IHO. Some positive decisions have been made such as the increase of the annual regular contribution from the IHO budget to the CB fund. To know the figures in an early stage rather than at the end of the preceding year improves the planning and execution of the projects significantly. The development of the e-learning component was another important decision.

Not a decision but a positive indication is the prospect of having additional personal resources at the IHO Secretariat for the CB Management. It is crucial to have support in the administrative work for the CB Secretary and the Chairman. We brought this up several times already. Taking into account the new members of the IHO I now see good chances to get a positive result via IRCC and the Council soon.

The change from a 5-year to a 3-year planning cycle makes it easier for us to provide our WP for the following years.



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3. CB Funds

Capacity Building in Hydrography is an issue for almost all countries. The CB fund becomes important especially for the countries that can not do this capacity development without support. The direct funds are limited and less than needed. To deal with that deficit we have to stick strictly to our strategy and regulations. Some submissions will possibly be on a waiting list comparable to this year until further funds are available. In addition we should have to consider not only one year in order to have enough funds left for the following one.

We can strive to increase the CB funds and there are some positive perspectives in that regard. But we will always have to prioritize the projects submitted. In addition, there are some chances now at hand to multiply our direct investments.

We do not face the dramatic lack of funds we had in 2015 at the time of the CBSC meeting. The situation then changed and improved significantly over the year, but it showed the need of an early confirmation of the available funds. This situation has changed for 2017 and will improve further due to the now regular contribution from the IHO budget.

Without the earmarked projects we will have at this stage 256.000 € available for 2018.

4. Work of the IHO Secretariat

With the growing success of CB, the administrative work is growing likewise. The support from the IHB staff is essential to cope with that. I am explicitly thankful for the fundamental support from Alberto Costa Neves and for the very good contribution in the financial execution accomplished by Sandrine Brunel.

5. CB Management

In 2016 the execution of the CB WP went very smoothly for the first time. This has several factors. The good preparation done by almost all of the CB coordinators and the RHCs, the correct and timely provision of the documents and the good support from the IHO Secretariat.

The CB Coordinators play an extraordinary important role in the success of CB efforts in the IHO and I again urge all Regional Hydrographic Commissions not to change this position too often. RHC's with a frequently rotating CB Coordinator have less chances to receive adequate support because of the lack of experience.

6. Contribution from the Republic of Korea and Japan to the Capacity Building



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The extraordinary generous ongoing contribution from Japan and ROK have been one major factor in the success of CB. I am very confident to sustain the fruitful cooperation with both countries.

7. Joint Capacity Building efforts

The planned annual joint CB meeting of IHO, IMO, IOC, WMO, IALA, FIG and IAEA at the IMO in London was cancelled by the IMO on relatively short notice. It is really disadvantageous that the IMO TCP more or less withdrew from a cooperation with the IHO in CB. A success of comprehensive projects will depend heavily on a good cooperation between the organizations.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in November at the IALA Headquarters.

8. Developments and improvement of our work

We almost reached the ceiling of what can be done with the current scheme and funds available. Some developments will help us in the near future to reduce the administrative workload and some procedural issues have to be solved.

I have to mention the technical visits. Still not all reports of these visits are timely and adequate. We also have to finalize the draft procedure 9 on TVs.

On a more strategic level we have to look at the issues already laid down in the CB Strategy. One example for the acquisition of comprehensive projects could be the idea of getting support on a governmental level in consultancy. Another issue will be the second stakeholder seminar that is planned to be held in 2019. And finally, how can we include and extend contributions from developed MS to Capacity Building.

Thomas Dehling

Chairman IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee