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Report on ISO TC211 Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark

During the ISO TC211 Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, the ISO 19117 revision project team met on 26-27 May 2008. The goal was to continue the work on a new working draft of ISO 19117 (Geographic Information Portrayal).

For the IHO Mr. Barrie Greenslade, UKHO (Chairman of TSMAD), and Mr. Holger Bothien, SevenCs GmbH took part in the meeting.

The main discussion was about the UML model of the portrayal process. The IHO delegates had concerns that the model that was distributed prior to the meeting was to complex on the one side and not able to fulfil the needs IHO has to a portrayal model on the other side. The group was holding a substantial discussion on the needs of such a model. At the end of that discussion there was a much better common understanding on that topic. Even there was no concrete model developed during the meeting it turns out how such a model should look like. The next step will be prepared prior to the next meeting (July 2008) and the work on the model should be finished during that meeting.

The contribution of Holger Bothien, representing the IHO, was appreciated by the group since there are not many members with a background in data modelling and software design.

There were other aspects of the standard also discussed during the meeting. This includes:

- An enterprise view of the portrayal process
- Consitency in terminology
- The use of external functions (S-52 Conditional Symbology Procedures) and how they can replaced by other mechanism
- Methods to define the order of precedence for portrayal rules
- Developing XML encodings from UML models
- Harmonization with OGC especially regarding SLD (Styled Layer Descriptor)

Summary:

The status of the working draft is very immature in the moment and can be strongly influenced. The contribution of the IHO experts is appreciated and can presumably lead to an international standard that easily can be profiled within S-100 and implemented by the hydrographical community.

Sgd. Holger Bothien.

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