

14th CHRIS MEETING
Shanghai, China, 15-17 August 2002

REPORT ON 6TH SHARED MEETING 12TH – 13TH AUGUST 2002
HONG KONG, SAR

INTRODUCTION

1. The SHARED Meeting was hosted by the Hong Kong Hydrographic Office on 12th and 13th Aug 2002. The meeting was attended by 20 participants from the International Hydrographic Bureau, Canada, Indonesia, Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, Norway, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom, USA and Singapore.

2. The Meeting reviewed the status of activities since the meeting in Singapore in Oct 2001 such as ecdisnow.org website, BARELANG project, the South Korean Navy ECDIS trial and the proposed Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) under the auspicious of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Of equal importance, the Meeting identified and discussed common areas needing attention and possible regional projects for SHARED.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

ECDISNOW.ORG WEBSITE

3. The Meeting noted the report on the new information posted on the ecdisnow.org SHARED website. For example, the guide in ENC production and quality assurance procedures and a confidential section on SHARED Programme meeting reports. Other features on the website such as list of data distributors, ECDIS equipment suppliers and training course were also demonstrated online. The Meeting agreed that the SHARED website should be linked to member HOs website to provide information on availability of official electronic chart data (ECD).

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Barelang Project

4. Indonesia and Singapore jointly presented the project status on the joint production of ENC covering regional ferry terminals and routes in the Singapore Strait and the Riau Islands. The Meeting noted that the project has completed the production of ENC covering some of the ferry terminals. It was also noted that the project has scheduled an ECDIS sea trial to ascertain the suitability for release for commercial use in Nov 2002.

South Korean Navy's ECDIS Trial

5. The Meeting noted the report on the South Korean Navy 3-month ECDIS trial between South Korea and India. It was also noted that the response from navigators were generally positive. Some of the feedback obtained for improvements were the need for radar overlay feature and adoption of a more systematic approach to obtaining ECD.

Marine Electronic Highway (MEH)

6. Singapore briefed the meeting on the MEH Project meeting which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in early 2002. The project would be seeking funding support from the

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and other forms of support by the three coastal states in Malacca and Singapore Straits, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Some of the major activities identified under the 4-year demonstration phase of the project such as the conducting of hydrographic survey using multibeam sonar system, establishment of DGPS station to cover area around the one-fathom bank, establishment of automatic identification station (AIS) and installation of ECDIS onboard very large crude carriers (VLCCs).

ISSUES NEEDING ATTENTION

Image Problem ?

7. There was consensus that publicity on the slow progress made in ENC production and release for commercial use have had negative impact on the hydrographic community. The Meeting noted that the UKHO had commissioned a market intelligence study to examine the number of the ECDIS used onboard commercial vessels. The study showed that there were about 6 to 7 thousand SOLAS classed vessels carried some form of digital charting system. Out of which only 2 thousand vessels carried a type approved system. The study also showed that about 200 ships are using official ENCs. The Meeting noted that there has been a decline in the number of ship accidents in Canada, Norway and the US as the result of the DGPS and ECS.

8. The Meeting agreed that in either case, the IHB would be the appropriate focal point to examine and coordinate the overall strategy of improving the image of the hydrographic community. In addition, it was agreed that a concerted effort should also be made to coordinate and publicise conference, seminar, workshop and exhibition are regional and global level. It was suggested that IHO could adopt the approach of yearly theme, similar to the IMO.

Data Distribution

9. In considering the types of models available to distribute official ECD, the Meeting was presented with the two models of data distribution available in Europe. The Meeting noted that members of the European RENC had decided on the need to form two separate entities that worked on different operating environment. The Meeting was briefed on the operation of the International Centre for ENC (ICE) and PRIMAR, Stavanger.

NEXT COURSE OF ACTION FOR SHARED

Ecdisnow.org

10. The Meeting agreed that the ecdisnow.org should continue to play an important role to providing information on available official electronic chart data. In this regard, PRIMAR, Stavanger would make available the chart catalogue to the SHARED. ICE would similarly provide the chart catalogue when it is made available. It was also agreed that hot links be established to the website of SHARED members and other relevant organisations.

Ferries and ECS standards

11. The Meeting agreed that ECDIS/ECS would further enhance navigational safety onboard passenger ferries. The Meeting noted that Hong Kong and Macau had embarked on project to jointly produce ENC covering the ferry route. This project is scheduled to be completed by end 2002. Similarly, it was noted that the BARELANG project between Indonesia and Singapore cover the same scope and time frame. South Korea was requested to examine possibility of a joint project to produce ENC with Japan. The Philippines supported the initiative to focus on the ferries and ferry routes.

Coordinated approach to publicizing Activities

12. Although IHO would examine the need to coordinate efforts to further improve the image of Member States, it was agreed that regional level, members should share and be aware of upcoming activities such as conferences, seminar, workshops and exhibitions.

CONCLUSION

13. The Meeting agreed to that SHARED should continue to focus on specific projects to meet its mission “to promote and facilitate the availability and use of official electronic chart data (ENC and RNC) to enhance safe and efficient global maritime navigation“.