

Paper for Consideration by CHRIS

AGENDA ITEM 4: Decisions of Other IHO Bodies Affecting CHRIS

3rd EIHC : Implementation of IHO Rules for the Accreditation of NGO's

Submitted by:	Chairman, CHRIS
Executive Summary:	This paper identifies the requirement for CHRIS and its subsidiary bodies to implement the IHO rules for the accreditation of NGOs.
Related Documents:	3 rd EIHC Decision 5: Agreement with the principles laid down for the guidelines of accreditation of NGO's (CONF.EX3/DOC.1 & CONF.EX3/INFODOC.6) IHO Administrative Resolution T.1.2
Related Projects:	Nil

Introduction / Background

The 3rd EIHC considered and agreed by consensus to adopt rules for the accreditation of NGO's (Decision 5). This has now been incorporated as IHO Administrative Resolution T.1.2 (see Annex).

Discussion

CHRIS and its subsidiary bodies should review and amend their Terms of Reference and business rules to reflect Decision 5 of the 3rd EIHC. However, in doing so, the review should consider the practical aspects of ensuring that the CHRIS WGs are not deprived of the opportunity for relevant technical experts (the so-called expert contributors) to continue to contribute to work as exists at present.

It should also be borne in mind that interim arrangements may be appropriate until such time as a wide body of NGOs is established that represents the full range of hydrographic and related stakeholders.

Action Required of CHRIS

The CHRIS is invited to:

- a. ensure that the ToR's for CHRIS and its subsidiary bodies incorporate the IHO guidelines for accreditation of NGO's as soon as practicable.
- b. develop guiding principles covering the continuing participation of "expert contributors".

Taken from IHO Administrative Resolution T1.2

4.- Accreditation to the IHO of Non-Governmental International Organizations. Any Non-Governmental International Organization, which is able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the IHO may be accredited and granted observer status. The regulations to be followed are:

Rule 1 Applicability

Subject to approval by the Conference or by Circular Letter, the IHO may grant observer status to any non-governmental international organization which is able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the IHO.

Rule 2 Purpose

Decisions to grant observer status to any non-governmental international organization shall be based on the principles that the purpose for entering into observer status shall be:

- (a) to enable the IHO to obtain information, help or expert advice from the non-governmental international organizations with special knowledge in the Organization's activities. Such information, help or advice can include (but not be limited to):
 - (1) consolidated strategic advice on the technical work program of the Organization, such as the needs of the user community, emerging technologies, required standards, data requirements and future trends;
 - (2) co-operation on technical programs of mutual interest including the proposal of new programs that fall under the responsibility of IHO;
 - (3) the effectiveness of the implementation of the technical activities of IHO, such as standards, specifications and capacity building;
 - (4) advice on issues relevant to the IHO, on request;
 - (5) support to the technical program of the IHO for capacity building;
 - (6) provision of representatives with special knowledge to IHO working groups.
- (b) to enable such NGIOs whose activities have an important and direct bearing on the work of the IHO to express their points of view to the Organization. They may request information of interest from the IHO to be distributed to their members.

Rule 3 Objectives and activities of the NGIO

Before granting observer status to any non-governmental international organization, the IHO must be satisfied that the objectives and functions of the non-governmental international organization are in harmony with the objectives of the IHO, as defined in Article II of the Convention.

Rule 4 General Undertaking by the NGIOs

Observer status may not be granted to a non-governmental international organization unless it undertakes to support the activities of the IHO and to promote the dissemination of its principles and work, bearing in mind the objectives and functions of the IHO on the one hand and the competence and activities of the non-governmental international organization on the other.

Rule 5 Constitution and Structure of the NGIOs

Observer status may not be granted to any non-governmental international organization unless it has a permanent headquarters, a governing body and an executive officer. It must also be authorized under its constitution to speak for its members through accredited representatives.

Rule 6 Privileges conferred by Observer Status

The granting of observer status to a non-governmental international organization shall confer the following privileges on that organization:

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- (a) the right to receive the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Conference and the subsidiary bodies of the IHO;
- (b) the right to submit written statements on items of the Agenda of the Conference and subsidiary bodies which are of interest to the non-governmental international organization concerned, after appropriate consultation with the IHB Directing Committee, provided that such submission does not impede the smooth functioning of the IHO organ involved. The non-governmental/international organization concerned shall give due consideration to any comment which the Directing Committee may make in the course of such consultations before transmitting the statement in final form;
- (c) the right to be represented by an observer at any meeting of the IHO at which matters of special interest to the non-governmental international organization concerned are to be considered;
- (d) the right to receive the texts of resolutions adopted by the Conference and of the appropriate supporting documents.

Rule 7 Status of the NGOs at Meetings of the IHO

Normally one observer from each non-governmental international organization shall be admitted to any session or meeting. Such observer shall have no voting rights but may, on the invitation of the Chairman and with the approval of the body concerned, speak on any item of the agenda of special interest to the non-governmental international organization of which he is the representative.

Rule 8 Granting of Reciprocal Privileges to the IHO

Any non-governmental international organization to which observer status is granted shall keep the IHB informed of those aspects of its own activities which are likely to be of interest to the IHO, and shall accord to the IHO privileges corresponding to those which are granted to the NGO by the IHO.

Rule 9 Consideration of Application

The Directing Committee shall only consider applications for observer status from nongovernmental international organizations twice a year (March and September) and shall not consider re-applications from such organizations until at least two years have elapsed since the Conference or through Circular Letter the IHO took a decision on the original application.

Rule 10 Periodic Review of the List of Observer NGOs

The Directing Committee shall review from time to time the list of non-governmental international organizations to which IHO has granted observer status, in order to determine whether or not the continuance of their status in any particular case is necessary and desirable. The Directing Committee shall report to the Conference accordingly.