

1st Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)

Singapore, 22-24 October 2009

The inaugural meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards committee was held in Singapore from 15-17 October 2009, hosted by the Hydrographer of Singapore, Dr Parry Oei. The HSSC was stood up on 1 January 2009 to oversee the technical program of the IHO. The committee has taken over the role of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) as well as assuming responsibility for other technical activities of the IHO.

The meeting was attended by 72 delegates from 28 countries and 9 Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO's) and sister intergovernmental organizations.

The work of HSSC's ten subordinate Working Groups was examined. Of particular note was the completion of a new geospatial data transfer standard - S-100, to be known as *The Universal Hydrographic Data Model - UHDM*. As a result, the HSSC decided to recommend that IHO Member States adopt S-100 as an active standard from 1 January 2010.

The S-100 USDm and its associated on-line registry, maintenance and governance infrastructure have been created specifically to encourage the widest possible use of hydrographic and related data and products in conjunction with other geospatial datasets and applications. An important consideration for the HSSC was that the introduction of S-100 will not have any adverse impact on the production of ENC's and ECDIS that rely on the S-57 standard.

Other notable topics included ongoing work on revising S-52 and its appendix 1 giving guidance on ENC updating procedures, development of guidelines for encoding temporary and preliminary ENC updates, drafting terms of reference for regional charting groups, monitoring the worldwide development of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI), revising procedures for making changes to IHO technical standards and specifications, the use of real-time tidal information in ECDIS, and future applications based on S-100 for ECDIS and also the e-Navigation concept under development by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).