

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

I would like first of all, on behalf of the Organization and the Bureau, to thank the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation of the Brazilian Navy for hosting this 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization's Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group here in Niterói. This Working Group has established a long standing and excellent reputation for expertise in all the issues that concern the analysis and promulgation of tidal data. In fact it was here in Brazil in 2009 that the IHO Tidal and Water Level Working Group met for the first time after it had evolved from the previous IHO Tidal Committee, so history is repeating itself.

It is pleasing to note the work being progressed across numerous strands since the last meeting in Silver Spring; this pace shows no signs of slowing, in fact the opposite is true as the demands from the maritime industry and customers grow and their desire for solutions to meeting the future e-navigation environment increase. The importance of the work being undertaken by this group has been brought into focus by the fact that the three PS for which this WG is responsible are listed amongst the six most desired and eagerly awaited of all S-100 based PS underdevelopment (others are S-124 – *Navigational warnings*, S-411 – *Sea ice* and S-412 – *Met-ocean forecasts*). It is considered once these have been progressed to a useable state, they will be the drivers for the anticipated customer demand for S-101 ENCs, for which currently there is little perceived advantage over S-57 ENCs.

There is no doubt the pressure for progress on all three PS is increasing. TWLWG7 and SCWG3 were important steps forward. KHOA have a national project to develop S-111 using the current test data sets and draft PS; progress will be discussed at the S-100 Test Strategy meeting in September in Monaco, therefore any progress on the PS needs to be passed to KHOA and close dialogue needs to be maintained

In addition to the S-100 based product specification developments, the on-going work on the standard constituent list, the standards for digital tide tables, the study of long term data sets for global sea level rise, the comparison of tidal predictions and the revision of Resolution 3/1919 must not be forgotten. In fact HSSC has directed that final wording for Resolution 3/1919 be

agreed and passed to Member States for approval at the earliest opportunity; further delay will generate unwanted questions for the Chair at the Chair group meeting in Paris in June and HSSC8 in Monaco in November.

Noting the focus on coastal zone management and risk modelling, the group must maintain its engagement with GLOSS programmes and be prepared to contribute. This aspect was amply demonstrated in the outcomes from the TOWS-9 meeting in Paris in February and the closer working relationships between the IHO and the IOC and WMO.

Capacity Building remains a key strategic goal of the IHO and the Tides, Water Level and Currents course is much in demand with its development into a more in depth content. CBSC has approved and funded a course for the SWAtHC, there is no doubt more will be programmed at the CBSC meeting in Abu Dhabi in late May. TWCWG needs to develop a cadre of experienced instructors to spread the load and ensure a consistent level of content delivery; noting that travel, accommodation and a reasonable level for expenses for the instructors are included in the funding allocation. The IHB would like to acknowledge and thank SAN for the work which has been done to develop the current course and coordinate the inputs from the rest of the TWCWG.

The integration of the TWLWG and SCWG at this meeting provides an opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other, particularly in the shared efforts to develop S-100 based Product Specifications. It is hoped consideration will be given to the creation of Project Teams to take forward the various S-100 Product Specification work stands so the momentum can be maintained.

All these issues are of major significance for the future, they will impact on the work of this Working Group and any subsidiary bodies over the next few years and will require significant input intersessionally. There is much work to be done.

I would like to welcome you all in this meeting and I wish to you, Madame Chair, and the participants, fruitful deliberations on the various issues to be examined as well as an enjoyable