

Global Sea Level Observing System Group of Experts 11th Meeting (GLOSS GE-XI)

The GE XI meeting was held at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) headquarters in Paris from 13 – 15 May 2009. The IHB and TWLWG were represented by Steve Shipman (PAH). The meeting was preceded by a two day workshop on "Precision Observations of Vertical Land Motion at Tide Gauges". The meeting was attended by over 50 delegates from some 30 countries. The Hydrographic Offices of Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, France, Norway, Portugal and the USA (NOAA) were represented.

The workshop brought sea-level and geodetic experts together to discuss some of the issues affecting the use of GNSS in the vicinity of tide gauges for use in monitoring of sea level change. The meeting was opened by Mr Ehrlich DESA, Deputy Executive Secretary, on behalf of Dr Patricio BERNAL, the Executive Secretary of IOC. The full details of the meeting together with all papers and presentations are available from the GLOSS web site: www.ioc-goos.org/glossgexi.

One very clear message that came through throughout the meeting was the vital role that tide gauge information provided for the study of both historical and the forecast of future sea-level rise and climate change. The Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL) maintains an archive of tidal information which is used extensively by academic and scientific communities for such research. It is of concern that over the last 10 years the number of tide gauge records being input to the PSMSL archive has reduced! PSMSL were also aware that some historical data sets going back over many years existed but were not in the archive. This historical data is equally essential for the improvement of future forecasts. Any offices with data are urged to contact Dr Svetlana JEVREJEVA at the PSMSL (sveta@pol.ac.uk). For details of the activities of, and data available from, the PSMSL please visit their web site www.pol.ac.uk/psmsl/.

PAH provided a presentation reporting on the changes to the IHO Committee Structure in general and the transformation from the Tidal Committee to the Tidal and Water Level Working Group in particular. He also thanked the GLOSS Group of Experts for continuing to provide a representative to the TWLWG meetings.