

**1st IRCC Meeting
Report by
EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

Chairman	:	Dr Parry Oei (Singapore)
Vice Chairman	:	Vice Admiral Nakorn Tanuwong (Thailand)
Members	:	China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, The Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
Observers	:	Brunei Darussalam, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vietnam

Setting the EAHC's Direction

1 At the 9th EAHC Conference in September 2006, to meet the Commission's vision of "Safe Navigation through regional Cooperation", Chairman highlighted 3 main areas of focus for the region. They were:-

- a) Capacity building through structured training comprising formal courses, seminar and workshops, including exchanging and sharing of experience and expertise;
- b) Further enhancing navigational safety by continuing with existing and initiating new projects to provide official and up-to-date information covering major shipping routes in the region; and
- c) Building trust and cooperation among Member States through regular discussions, meetings and regional projects.

2 To facilitate the above focus areas, the Commission agreed to hold annual Coordinating Meetings to allow the Chief Hydrographers to jointly:

- a) Review the work of the EAHC Committees, TaskGroup and regional capacity building programme,
- b) Examine and discuss updates and impact on issues raised at the IHO and IMO working committees.
- c) To allow the Commission to jointly set the direction of the works to be carried out for the following years.

Meetings and Training Courses Held from 2007-2009

3 Below is a table of events :-

Date	Name of Meeting	Venue
Management Meetings		
10 – 11 Jan 2007	1 st EAHC Coordinating Meeting	Singapore
24 – 25 Jan 2008	2 nd EAHC Coordinating Meeting	Chiangmai, Thailand
18 - 19 Feb 2009	3 rd EAHC Coordinating Meeting	Sanya, China
Technical Working Group Meetings		
19 – 20 Jun 2007	1 st Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) Task Group Meeting	Singapore
8 Aug 2007	Assessment Of Critical Shoals And Wrecks Along The Main Shipping Routes In The South China Sea Working Group Meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia
16 – 18 Jul 2008	2 nd Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) Task Group Meeting and GNSS Seminar	Cebu, Philippines
Capacity Building Programme		
16 – 19 Jun 2008	Multibeam Survey and Data Processing	Singapore
4 – 6 Nov 2008	ENC Quality Assurance	Pattaya, Thailand
27- 28 Apr 2009	Technical Visit to Vietnam Maritime Safety Company	Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Jul 2009	Multibeam Survey and Data Processing	Philippines
Jul 2009	ENC Quality Assurance	Philippines
Next Meetings		
15 – 17 Oct 2009	10 th EAHC Conference	Singapore
19 – 21 Oct 2009	3 rd International ECDIS Conference – “ECDIS Beyond Navigation”	Singapore
22 – 24 Oct 2009	1 st HSSC Meeting	Singapore

Main Outcome of our Regional Efforts

- 4 The significant contributions to ensuring navigational safety include:
- a) The 1st regional product that is the South China electronic navigational chart was released in March 2005 and the 2nd Edition in October 2008.
 - b) Established a ENC Task Group to address the issue of ENC production, quality assurance and harmonisation. This includes harmonisation of small scale ENCS with medium scale ENCs.
 - c) Established a Technical Advisory Group to provide advice on the application of guidelines formulated by the EAHC in ENC data production and Quality Assurance (QA) for the purpose of data consistency in overlapping areas and between various usage bands.
 - d) Established a Capacity Building Committee and organising training courses, seminars and workshops to enhance the skills of our hydrographers and cartographers.

Capacity Building – Technical visits

5 Also part of the Programme, we have proposed Technical Visits to selected member and non-member States to assess and assist in specific capacity building needs. With the support of the IHO CBSC, the Chair and Vice Chair of the EAHC have identified to visit 3 non-member States ie. Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam. The first visit will be made to Vietnam Maritime Safety Company in April 2009.

Protection of the Marine Environment

6 The EAHC recognises that the protection of the marine environment through enhancing the safety of navigation is one of the mission statements of the IHO. Hence, MS recognised the need to have better appreciation on the implementation of regulations on the Ballast Water Convention by the IMO. In preparation for the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention, HOs need to poise themselves to provide Port State Administrations with up-to-date geographic and hydrographic data with environmental data inputs.

7 As such, the EAHC has proposed to hold a training course in “Impact of Hydrography to the Ballast Water Convention” in 2010.

Proposals to IRCC

- 8 To foster greater inter regional coordination, we propose to following:
- a) Regular meeting between RHCs to discuss common boundary issues, eg. ENC overlaps and data harmonisation.
 - b) Drawing experience from the 2005 tsunami devastation, the possibility of setting up of an inter regional Emergency Point of Contact database.
 - c) Capacity Building – opening of training courses to member States of neighbouring RHC.
- 9 Submitted for your consideration, please.

Jointly submitted by:

Dr Parry Oei
Chairman EAHC

Vice Admiral Nakorn Tanuwong
Vice Chairman EAHC