

**THIRD MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC3
Niteroi, Brazil, 26-27 May 2011**

The South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)
Chairman's Report

Proposals: see section 5.

Chair : Mr Joseph Kunda (Papua New Guinea).
 Vice-Chair : Cdre Rod Nairn (Australia).
 Full Members : Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The 10th Conference of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) took place in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 9 to 10 November 2010, under the Chairmanship of Ingénieur général Bruno Frachon (France). The meeting was organized and hosted by the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Agency (SIMSA). Six Member States (Australia, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom and United States of America), out of eight, were represented at this meeting, plus observers from Solomon Islands, SOPAC (see section 4) and survey companies.

1. Capacity Building

Capacity building has been identified as one major issue in the SWPHC Region. Three types of activities are related to that issue:

- liaison with regional organizations and national authorities to raise awareness of the importance of hydrographic services and support the development of hydrographic capabilities;
- assessment studies and technical visits to, identify, develop and monitor assistance projects;
- participation in the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee to provide input from the Region to the Capacity Building Work Programme.

Australia is acting as the regional Capacity Building coordinator in the SWPHC region.

After the two meetings conducted in 2008 and 2009 on raising awareness of the importance of hydrography in the South Pacific region, Pacific Island Countries are now well aware of their obligations under SOLAS Regulations. One of the roles of the IHO is to help developing Island States to establish their own capability to provide at least updated hydrographic information to a charting authority in order to meet their SOLAS obligations and therefore fulfil their State responsibilities.

Among the various Capacity Building requirements identified during the 9th SWPHC Conference, the following actions were completed since the last IRCC meeting:

- (1) Organization by Australia of a MSI workshop (done in August 2010),
- (2) Organization of a 2-week Regional Training Course on 'Hydrographic Surveying and Introduction to Chart Production' (conducted in Papua New Guinea in October 2010).

The lack of feedback received by the Commission on progress and follow-up reports on proposals made at the occasion of technical visits or Capacity Building actions is very concerning about the way Capacity Building Funds beneficiaries carry out an adequate monitoring of these Capacity Building actions. However, a report following up Solomon Islands technical visit was submitted to SWPHC during the last Conference.

The organization of technical visits in Cook Islands and Kiribati are registered in the Capacity Building Work Programme 2011. Applications for Capacity Building Funds are transmitted by Australia to CBSC for the construction of the Capacity Building Work Programme on a yearly basis. The list forwarded for CBSC9 details prioritized Capacity Building Funds applications identified for the 2011-2014 period. It has been reviewed during the last SWPHC Conference.

2. Implementation of an adequate ENC coverage

The current status of ENC coverage is in line with meeting the objectives fixed for 2010.

In compliance with the IHO CL 23/2010, a formal correspondence working group, the ICCWG, chaired by Australia, was formed to coordinate the limits and production of INT charts and ENC for the SWPHC region.

Australia should finalize the regional ENC schemes for usage codes 1 and 2 (deconfliction of overlaps) by March 2011.

3. Liaison with regional organization and national authorities

Contacts with the regional organizations - Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) are improving. Fiji represented the SWPHC and gave briefs on the IHO SWPHC activities at the occasion of the 14th PacMA meeting. The Solomon Islands representative to PacMA Executive Committee attended the 10th SWPHC Conference, as well as a representative of SOPAC. Due to the transfer of SOPAC into the SPC (as a new applied geoscience and technology division), it was agreed that the appropriate level of recognition of issues related to hydrography and nautical charting services by governments in the region would be best achieved through a Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and SPC. Following a meeting between SPC and IHB, a draft text has been drawn up by IHB and is submitted for approval to the IHO (CL16/2011) and to the SPC.

With the exception of Solomon Islands, no Observers representing national authorities attended the 10th SWPHC Conference.

4. Status of IRCC actions

IRCC2/1	Adopt objectives to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the deadline of the end of 2011.	SWPHC Chair representative met Fiji, New Zealand and Tonga through diplomatic channel.
IRCC2/2	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	No application within the SWPHC region.
IRCC2/5	Report to IRCC3 on: a. the methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements. b. the implementation of the guidance for the	a) Nothing to report. b) The region L ICCWG has

	<p>preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010).</p> <p>c. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005).</p> <p>d. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.</p>	<p>been established during the last SWPHC Conference to coordinate the limits and production of INT charts and ENC (Chair=Australia).</p> <p>c) Nothing to report.</p> <p>d) Non IHO MS are regularly invited to attend SWPHC Conferences or Capacity Building seminars.</p>
IRCC2/6	Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.	France (IGA Bruno Frachon) represents SWPHC on the IHR editorial board.
IRCC2/12	Request follow-up reports from recipients of CB Fund support and submit them to the IHB.	Solomon Islands technical visit report (reference ADB TA 7178-SOL) forwarded to IHB in November 2010.

5. Proposals to the 3rd IRCC

SWPHC proposes the IRCC:

- to investigate the best way to address INT charts and ENC overlaps between neighbouring Regional Hydrographic Commissions.