FOURTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

IHO-IRCC4

Singapore, 7-8 June 2012

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE IRCC

The IRCC meeting provided an excellent and productive forum to discuss the activities, outputs and outcomes, and the work plans for the next intersessional period of the RHCs, as well as to develop a common strategy to advance the objectives of the IHO. It also provided an opportunity to identify and highlight the key achievements of the IHO through the RHCs during the period leading up to IRCC4, some of which are captured in this document, grouped according to the operational elements of the IRCC TORs. It should be recognized that there were many other successes that were considered essential to delivering on IRCC objectives, details of which may be found in the RHC and other reports.

IRCC TOR: Establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions – expect this includes promoting hydrography and recruiting new members to IHO

- IRCC's Capacity building/enhancement activities such as technical visits (14 countries were visited during the intersessional period), seeking extra-budgetary support for CB from member states (the contributions from Japan and Republic of Korea significantly increased CB activities) and the industry, and facilitating participation of observers and technical experts in RHC meetings significantly raised the awareness and increased the participation of the number of maritime nations in IHO's activities.
- WHD activities with the theme '*Human Resources - The important element to the success of hydrography*' in Hydrographic Services around the world highlighted the important role of hydrography to ensure safety of life at sea and responsible and sustainable use of our oceans (some examples of the celebration of WHD in 2011 can be seen in the IHO web site).
- IHO achieved its long-standing objective to ensure a complete suite of RHCs providing full coverage of the global oceans to enable delivery of hydrographic services through the establishment of the ARHC; the open scientific session that takes place just prior to the official meeting of the ARHC provides an excellent advisory forum to discuss the specific challenges and opportunities in the Arctic hydrography to set the objectives and work plans of ARHC.
- The IHO has received applications from Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam and Cameroon became an IHO MS in 2012. RHCs, particularly the SWPHC and MACHC have seen an increase in the participation of non-IHO MSs to their last conferences.

IRCC TOR: Establish co-operation and partnership with governments, organizations and industry to enhance the delivery of Capacity Building programs and to ensure long-term sustainability.

- The commitment and effort of the IRCC through the RHCs and the IHB resulted in establishing many partnership agreements and availing new opportunities to enhance the delivery of Capacity Building programs and to ensure long-term sustainability. These included:

- Partnerships with relevant organizations were strengthened through participation in multi-organizational (IHO-IMO-WMO-IOC-IALA-IAEA-FIG) meetings designed to achieve economies of scale to build capacity in maritime nations and to promote and advance hydrography.
- MoUs were put in place with Republic of Korea and Japan, as well as with ICA, FIG, IOC, ISO, and IFHS.
- At the regional level, MoUs were established with regional organizations such as PAIGH, PMAWCA, SOPAC, ACS and SPC.
- During the XVIIIth IHC a MoU was signed with the European Commission to integrate approaches to maritime affairs.

- In cooperation with IMO, there were 5 courses delivered training for more than 60 people, and two more courses are planned for the upcoming year.

IRCC TOR: Facilitate interaction between RHCs and potential donors at both international and regional levels.

- Inviting stakeholders and industry to RHC meetings and holding technical presentations and training sessions has helped to enhance engagement with stakeholders and industry. This facilitated, the following projects:
    - Technical workshop in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography delivered in Haiti (2011), jointly accomplished by IHO, PAIGH and Industry (Kongsberg Maritime, Caris, Hypack, Hemisphere).
    - Introduction to Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Course delivered in St John's, Antigua (2011) and involved close collaboration with industry - Kongsberg Maritime, CARIS and Fugro Pelagos together with the Antigua & Barbuda Coastguard (who provided the vessel).

IRCC TOR: Liaise with other relevant international organizations (governmental and Non-Governmental).

- The International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) is a joint FIG, IHO and ICA organ. At its 35th Meeting, 11 programmes for Hydrography and Cartography were reviewed and 8 awarded recognition or re-recognition both at Category A and B levels. For the first time an international scheme for individual recognition was also awarded.
- The cooperation with GEBCO has resulted in a series of important products like the GEBCO Digital Atlas, the GEBCO world map and the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names; these products are available in the GEBCO web site.
- Improvement of the WWNWS can be represented by the close and coordinated work conducted with the IMO in the update of several MSI publications and review of all the related documents, as well as in the establishment of the five new NAVAREAS covering the Arctic Ocean.

IRCC TOR: Through RHCs, deliver on the objectives of IHO.

- INT Chart / ENC production: several RHCs created WGs to develop and maintain for their regions, integrated international chart schemes, overseeing both paper and ENC coverage. The WEND-WG monitors and advises IRCC on the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet the SOLAS V/19 carriage requirements for ECDIS.
- Harmonization of re-survey schemes: Although an international standard for accuracy of hydrographic surveys existed for many years, there was no internationally accepted guideline regarding the strategy (frequency, extent) of re-survey of critical areas with heavy vessel traffic and susceptible to significant temporal changes in bathymetry. Two

regional hydrographic commissions have been addressing the issue of harmonizing methods and practices for analyzing critical areas and for planning efficient re-survey, opening the way for a more rational and cost-effective approach to addressing this challenge.

- Provision of common tidal surface: bathymetric measurements made for the purpose of charting must be corrected to account for the tidal fluctuations so that the soundings on nautical charts refer to a fixed level of reference (datum). When several nations surround a common maritime space, the reference level may vary from region to region and in some cases, chart to chart. Consistency of nautical charts and elimination of ambiguity prejudicial to the safety of mariners require that the different reference levels are integrated into one single seamless surface. Several RHCs, working on enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, are collaborating to transform their charts to a common tidal reference, including its precise vertical positioning.