

**6TH MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO IRCC6
PARIS, 19-20 MAY2014**

Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by: IHB

Executive Summary: This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO

1. As of 1 May 2014, 40 of the required minimum of 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following Member States that were signatories to the Convention when the amendments were agreed in 2005 have yet to indicate their formal approval to the Depository State (Monaco):

Algeria; Argentina; Bahrain; Belgium; Colombia; Croatia; Ecuador; Egypt; Fiji; Guatemala; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kuwait; Malaysia; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nigeria; Oman; Philippines; Russia; Serbia; Singapore; Suriname; Syria; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad & Tobago; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Venezuela.

2. The 5th Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference could still be held as the first Assembly of the IHO if the remaining eight approvals are received by the Government of Monaco before 6 July 2014.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

3. Montenegro became the 82nd Member State of the IHO on 3 December 2013.

4. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive the required instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.

5. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 1 May 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	44 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	41 of 52 required
Georgia	40 of 52 required

Suspended Member States

6. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. The Directing Committee is taking every opportunity to work with these States to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible. The Directing Committee is also monitoring the situation for a number of other Member States that have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

7. With 79 Member States having the right to vote, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 when a two-third majority is needed. The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting no.

Diplomatic Engagement

8. The Directing Committee is continuing its programme of visits to brief non-Member State officials on the global status of hydrography and the relevance of the IHO to non-Member States. This is being done through targeted in-country visits and briefings and through visits to diplomatic legations in Paris or London when convenient.

9. The Directing Committee, in consultation with individual Member State representatives, briefs relevant diplomatic missions in order to raise the profile of the respective national hydrographic service and the importance of hydrography.

10. The Directing Committee provides briefings to the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Monaco to enable Monaco's diplomatic service to better assist the IHO in maximising levels of awareness of hydrography and the IHO at the highest diplomatic levels, particularly in the UN and through the diplomatic services.

11. The Directing Committee, with the assistance of the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing outstanding approvals of the Amendments to the Convention or the consideration of outstanding applications for Membership of the IHO.

IHO GIS Data Base - Progress Report

12. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.

13. As reported in IHO CL 23/2014, the country information database has been developed by the officer seconded to the IHB from Japan and the IHO Yearbook is now derived automatically from the database.

14. The regional information database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information (tidal observatories, ports, shipping routes, etc.). It is expected to provide the principal IHO resource for managing international chart coordination, monitoring ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting "hotspots". A "beta version" of a pilot project for Antarctica was presented to the last meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (<http://hca.iho.int>).

15. As part of the development of a new framework for C-55, a new version of the current digital publication has been implemented in order to streamline the updating procedure. The next step will be to develop a GIS-compatible database

16. As a follow up to CL 51/2012 dated 18 May, about the provision of ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19, PRIMAR has arranged to offer to the IHB a free Web Map Service (WMS) containing all the ENCs available in the WEND (RENCs) database, continuously updated. The WMS service will be for internal use in the IHB only.

IHO Outreach

17. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2014 is "*Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts*" (CL 02/2014 dated 07 January refers). The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms easily understood and appreciated by the public, politicians and administrators.

18. It is expected that the celebration of WHD-2014 in Monaco will be enhanced both by the visit of a French Navy surveying ship facilitated by the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM) and by hosting the GEBCO SCUFN meeting at the IHB during the week. Additionally, it is intended to arrange a supplementary WHD-2014 event during the FIG International Congress-2014 which will be held from 16 to 21 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight the IHO activities. This event is being arranged in consultation with the Hydrographer of Malaysia and the President of the FIG.

19. The IHB has provided supporting material for WHD-2014 on the IHO website (CL 25/2014 dated 06 March refers). Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2014 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material

20. IHO Stakeholders' Forum. An IHO Stakeholders' Forum is planned to take place during the next Conference of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS), Hydro14, which will be held in Aberdeen, United

Kingdom, from 28 to 30 October 2014. The Forum will explore how to improve the two-way interaction between the IHO and industry (IHO CL 24/2014 refers).

21. **International Hydrographic Review (IHR).** The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov). The current editor, Mr Ian Halls (Australia) has informed the Directing Committee of his wish to stand down at the end of the year due to anticipated additional work commitments. A call for nominations for the vacant position will be made shortly by Circular Letter.

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

22. EIHC-5 will take place from 6 to 10 October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (CCL 01 refers). A number of Conference Circular Letters covering various administrative matters have been issued. Planning and preparations are progressing satisfactorily. A Provisional Conference Programme and a Draft Agenda and proposals to be considered by the Conference have been circulated to Member States (CCL 10 and 08 refers). Further documents will be published over the coming months. It is expected that the content of the two half-day special sessions planned on 7 and 8 October will be confirmed by the end of July. The two half-day information sessions are intended to inform Member States about contemporary developments, provoke discussion and provide new ideas for work and engagement in areas that may not have been considered previously. The parallel Industry Exhibition is almost fully booked with very few places still available.

Capacity Building Programme

23. The IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO Budget and is supplemented by additional support from Member States (currently Japan, through the Nippon Foundation, and the Republic of Korea). However, considering the growing demands for IHO Capacity Building activities, more funds and contributions are required. For this reason, the Directing Committee, and in particular Director Iptes, is continuing a campaign to find new donor States and funding organizations.

IHO Work Programme

24. **Sustainability** The Directing Committee is observing an overall decrease in the ability of some IHO subordinate bodies to progress important tasks in the IHO Work Programme. This appears to be due to the limited availability of some members of these bodies to attend meetings or to progress work inter-sessionally. At the same time, there is an increasing dependence on contract support and assistance in order to progress certain specialized tasks in the work programme. The Directing Committee has drawn attention to these and other issues in its report on the technical capacity of the IHB submitted to EIHC-5 (CCL 08 refers). The Directing Committee is already moving towards an improved, resource-based approach to the preparation of the next pluri-annual Work Programme. However, to date, obtaining useful input from IHO bodies on resource constraints and the impact of delays or non-achievement has generally been unsuccessful.

25. **Schedule for IHO Meetings** The IHB initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to assist resource planning by the IHB and States, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and autumn periods. The initiative has not been particularly successful so far. Relatively few dates or venues have been declared for IHO and RHC meetings in 2015. Those IRCC bodies that have provided information have held to their traditional dates.

Action Requested of NHC Member States

26. IRCC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.