

**6TH MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO IRCC6
Paris, France, 19-20 May 2014**

Input from IHO MSDIWG Meeting No 5

Submitted by: Secretary, MSDIWG

Executive Summary: This paper outlines the outcomes from the fifth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG meeting (MSDIWG5) of interest to IRCC. The paper focuses on how to contribute to the development of MSDI.

General

1. The fifth meeting of IHO MSDIWG took place in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, hosted by NOAA, from 5th-7th February 2014.
2. The outcome of the meeting is available from the HSSC section of the IHO Website under the MSDIWG.
3. The 6th HSSC meeting (MSDIWG-6) will be hosted by UKHO and held in London in February 2015.

Consideration of the outcome of IRCC-4 and IRCC-5

Action IRCC4/22 Request HSSC to task MSDIWG to develop an "introduction to MSDI" training course
Action IRCC4/23 Investigate the possibility to deliver a MSDI courses with IOC and/or other organizations.

These action points are included in the future work of the MSDIWG as stated in the work plan.

Task IRCC5 11/2013 Contribute to the development of MSDI.

This paper focuses on how IHO can contribute to the development of MSDI.

Consideration of the outcome of HSSC-4 and IRCC-5

Action HSSC4/32 is for MSDIWG4" to consider, within its work plan, the development of content for an "introduction to MSDI" training course".

This action point is included in future work of the MSDIWG as stated in the work plan.

IHO position to MSDI

The IHO is seeking to develop its Vision of being the authoritative worldwide hydrographic body which actively engages all coastal and interested States to advance maritime safety and efficiency and which supports the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

To support the role of the IHO in ensuring that the Hydrographic community is fit and able to meet the global remit of extracting greater wealth and knowledge from the world's oceans, the MSDIWG is supporting the IHO to adopt a more proactive stance in the way data collected and managed by HO's is disseminated and used thereby providing a leading role in developing the "blue economy".

To stress the wider potential of information collected and held by Hydrographic Offices, this year's World Hydrography Day has the theme 'Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts'.

The MSDIWG

2014-15 Work Plan was refined at the recent MSDIWG Meeting No 5 in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA from 5th-7th February 2014. This was based on the HSSC-5 agreed 2014-15 Work Plan for the WG.

Key to being able to deliver this Work Plan are the six supporting tasks now in place namely:

1. Identify and promote national and regional best practises for land-sea integration to enable cross-border integration between nations (United Nations E/C.20/2013/10/Add.1.refers)
2. Review existing standards for the provision of maritime components of spatial data infrastructures (United Nations E/C.20/2013/10/Add.1 refers).
3. Develop content for MSDI training and education courses.
4. Maintain MSDI reference documentation on the IHO website.
5. Maintain and extend IHO MSDI Publication; C-17 (IHO Task 2.9.2 refers).
6. Ensure that MSDI is a standing agenda item for RHC meetings (IHO Resolution 2/97 refers).

Discussion on how IHO could contribute to the development of MSDI.

Making the case for MSDI in the RHC's

MSDI is not something special or that can be acquired quickly. It is about developing best practice data management processes and systems to enable it to be used in many ways. This means managing the data as close to source as possible rather than at the product level.

Content (data) is critical to MSDI. Without data, MSDI will not be effective in delivering efficient and effective working practices.

Data should be managed in a way that makes data access, data sharing and exchange easier. This can be done by using existing ISO, OGC and IHO S-100 based standards and specifications.

MSDI can be enabled by Information Communications Technology (ICT). The role of GIS is just one tool that will assist in realizing the benefits of MSDI.

MSDI cannot happen without the cooperation of the people involved in hydrography. A challenge to its success in MS is the hierarchical nature of the organizations responsible for hydrography. Without cultural and organizational transition, MSDI and best practice will remain elusive.

RHC's are critical to ensuring that it's MS are made aware of the strengths and weaknesses that exists in many MS; the opportunities that exist for MS having a wider and enduring role in the future maritime information world but also the threats that exist if cultural and organizational change cannot be delivered and quickly.

Fundamental to enabling MSDI to be effective is the definition and implementation of appropriate governance. This requires clear definition of all stakeholder interests and anticipated outcomes.

Successful implementation will require commitment of data, time and money. Success criteria and progress milestones need to be defined before embarking on programs of work.

The cost of both implementation and maintenance of MSDI must be justified by a clear articulation of the benefits. Benefits may not all be directly financial, but would relate to aspects such as improved environmental management and governance, safety, disaster mitigation and emergency response.

Conclusions and recommendations

In order to contribute to the development of MSDI it is recommended that IRCC should:

- Take note of the items in this paper and invite MS, observers and expert contributors to participate in active debate, workshops and briefings facilitated by RHC's as a matter of course, not by exception.
- To empower RHC's to imbue a sense of urgency in MS to take a more proactive role in engaging with government, commerce, academia and the third sector to seek a renewed mandate for hydrography as the valid "science of the oceans" in the fast changing information world.
- To encourage RHC's take advantage of the growing library of physical and online resources that MS can use to further their understanding, interest and knowledge of NSDI and MSDI.

- To identify “ambassadors” who are willing and able to take the MSDI message to MS to energize them in taking the actions necessary to bring about organizational change.
- To support RHC’s in facilitating further Capacity Building short MSDI training courses for practitioners and MSDI briefing sessions for senior managers and/ or directors in MS to enable them to provide the necessary vision and direction for HO’s.

Proposals

IRCC-6 is invited to:

- Note this report.
- Discuss how to contribute to the development of MSDI.
- Identify the key issues which could contribute to the development of MSDI.
- Encourage MS to actively participate in the IHO MSDI WG
- Take any other actions as it considers appropriate.