

7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO IRCC7

MEXICO CITY, 01-03 JUNE 2015

**Report of the IHO Secretariat**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	IHB
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	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 15 May 2015, 41 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):

Argentina<sup>1</sup>; Bahrain; Belgium; Colombia; Croatia; Ecuador; Egypt; Fiji; Guatemala; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kuwait; Malaysia; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nigeria; Oman; Philippines; Singapore; Syria; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad & Tobago; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Venezuela.

2. The next International Hydrographic Conference scheduled in 2017 will be held as the first Assembly of the IHO subject to the remaining seven approvals being received by the Government of Monaco before the end of 2016.

**Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO**

3. Georgia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam became the 83<sup>rd</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> Member States of the IHO in March 2015.

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. Malta, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have recently applied for membership of the IHO and the approval process of the Member States has been started.

**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 some other Member States that have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

7. With 82 Member States having the right to vote, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 42 when a simple majority is required and 55 when a two-thirds 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The IHB was informed by the Hydrographic Office of Argentina that the national law approving the Protocol had been promulgated on 10 December 2014 but this approval has not yet been notified to the Government of Monaco.

## Diplomatic Engagement

8. The Directing Committee is continuing its programme of visits to brief high officials of non-Member States 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, London and New York 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 which is composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.

13. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website.

14. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through various sophisticated cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue has been transferred in this new environment and the transfer of the GIS coverage for Antarctica will follow soon.

15. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) and the work of the IHO. In addition to the current composite indicators (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed), the inclusion of CATZOC polygons would provide an initial geo-referenced quality layer as discussed at IRCC-4. In that perspective, the RENCs are invited to seek the consent of their members to provide CATZOC information to the IHB for inclusion in C-55.

16. The related development of a GIS application to support S-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts* is addressed in a separate submission (see IRCC7-12A).

## IHO Outreach

17. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2015 is "*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*" (CL 03/2015 dated 08 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 promoting and encouraging innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives, including crowd-sourcing and satellite derived bathymetry, to address the current shortfall in the availability of useful bathymetric data.

18. It is expected that the celebration of WHD-2015 in Monaco will be enhanced both by a visit by the Japan Coast Guard Training Ship "*Kojima*" facilitated by the Japan Hydrographic Oceanographic Department (JHOD) and by hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) at the IHB during the week. Additionally, it is intended to arrange a supplementary WHD-2015 event during the 19<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC-19) which will be held from 30 June to 2 July in Batumi, Georgia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight IHO activities. This event is being arranged in consultation with the Hydrographer of Georgia.

19. The IHB has provided supporting material for WHD-2015 on the IHO website (CL 28/2015 dated 23 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-2015 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material.

20. IHO Stakeholders' Forum. As indicated in paper IRCC7-10B, the agenda of HSSC-7 will include a half-day session for Stakeholders' input and discussion on the afternoon of Thursday, 12 November 2015. The programme of the session will be based on presentations proposed by IHO Stakeholders. IHO Stakeholders attending the Forum will be welcomed to participate as observers throughout the HSSC meeting. Logistics information and a form for submitting abstracts for consideration are available on the IHO web site at [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > External Liaisons > External Stakeholders > Section on IHO Stakeholder Meetings > Next Meeting.

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](mailto:ihreview@iho.int), copy to [ian.halls1@defence.au.gov](mailto:ian.halls1@defence.au.gov)). The mandate of the current editor, Mr Ian Halls (Australia), was renewed until the end of 2016 (CL 84/2014 dated 23 December refers).

### **5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)**

22. The 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference was held in the Rainier III Auditorium in Monaco, from 6 to 10 October 2014. It was attended by just under 300 representatives from 65 of the then 82 Member States of the IHO, 2 pending Member States and 10 non-Member States. In addition, 30 representatives from observer international, regional or national organizations, including CIRM, FIG, IAATO, IALA, IAG and PAIGH, took part in the discussions. A Hydrographic Industry Exhibition, organized in parallel to the Conference, brought together almost 30 companies and organizations. An IHO Capacity Building Poster Exhibition presented an overview of Capacity Building activities and training programmes funded by the Nippon Foundation over the last 10 years.

23. The Conference examined seven proposals and three reports tabled either by Member States or the Directing Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), Mr. Mike PRINCE, and the Chair of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC), Rear Admiral Tom KARSTEN, presented interim reports on the activities of their Committees. A special "information session" was held over two consecutive half-days when invited stakeholders presented their views on a number of topical issues of relevance to the IHO, followed by a question and answer period. The Conference agreed 18 decisions including the approval of the IHO Finance Report for 2013 and the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2015.

### **Capacity Building Programme**

24. The IHO capacity building programme reached a new level of achievement in 2014 with double the funds available for 2014 compared to 2013. This was a result of the ongoing financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Republic of Korea, supplemented by a contribution from the IHO budget and in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. 11 technical visits and 31 different training activities were planned last year with a rate of execution of over 80%. The remainder of the planned activities were unavoidably cancelled or postponed due to difficulties arising in host countries and no suitable alternative arrangements being possible in time.

### **IHO Work Programme**

25. **Sustainability** The Directing Committee is observing a 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 is attempting to establish an improved, resource-based approach to the preparation of the Work Programme in accordance with Decision No.3 of the EIHC-5. However, obtaining useful input from many of the IHO bodies on specific resource constraints and the consequent impact of delays or non-achievement is a continuing challenge (CL 17/2015 dated 24 February refers).

26. **Schedule for IHO Meetings** The IHB initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, is seeking to establish 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, to 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 IRCC**

27. IRCC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Request** the RENCs to seek the consent of their members to provide CATZOC information to the IHB for inclusion in C-55,
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.