

**8th Meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8),
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016**

Paper for Consideration by IRCC8

<i>Submitted by :</i>	Japan
<i>Executed Summary:</i>	This paper invites a consideration by IRCC8 to request IBSC to discuss syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder.
<i>Related Documents:</i>	IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors
<i>Related Project:</i>	IBSC

Introduction

1. Syllabus of the Category A and B for Hydrographic Surveyors has been discussed and reviewed by FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC). The recommended syllabus by IBSC has been published as the IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors.
2. IBSC has been reviewing a proposed training program and scheme submitted by Hydrographic Offices, institutions and learned bodies to recognize it Category A or B. As of October 2015, there are 30 training programmes have been recognized in 26 countries as Category B for Hydrographic Surveyors and 21 training programmes for Category A in 16 countries.
3. Minimum duration of certifying programme for the IBSC Categories are presently requested as below;

Category B should be in the order of twenty four (24) weeks (without exemptions sought). In case exemptions are sought, this period can be reduced accordingly, but no less than sixteen (16) weeks.

Category A should be one (1) year: two full semesters plus field training.

Discussion

4. IBSC doesn't consider at present that Category B is as a pre-requisite for Category A. But, in cases where a Category A programme is preceded immediately prior by a Category B programme then time frames for the Category A programme may take into account the time devoted to the Category B programme.
5. In the present IBSC scheme, every applicant, even if he/she has the certification of Category B, should finish all curriculum of the Category A programme with other applicants who might not have any knowledge and skill on hydrographic survey. Normally, the Category B holder is a leading surveyor in each organization. Therefore it can be hard for applying organization to send him/her to the Category A programme for 1 year or longer, thought there is a need to foster him/her as the Category A hydrographic surveyor.

Conclusion and Recommendation

6. In this context, it should be proposed to develop a Syllabus of Category A for Category B holder with shorter period than the present Category A programme possibly for twenty four weeks as its minimum duration.
7. Field work experience for more than two or three years could be requested to applicant for this proposed programme. Having this requirement for applicant, it would be expected another advantage that hydrographic surveyor who has completed this training programme would be one with the same practical ability as other surveyor who has completed a normal Category A

programme has.

Justification and Impacts

8. The 3rd East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Steering Committee Meeting, Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, 24-26 February reviewed and discussed the necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder and agreed to submit this proposal to the next meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016.

Action required of IRCC8

9. The IRCC8 is invited to:
 - a. Note this paper,
 - b. Discuss a necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder by IBSC and,
 - c. Agree to request IBSC of the discussion on this issue.
