

GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names 26th Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 23-27 September 2013

The 26th meeting of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted by the Japanese Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) in Tokyo, Japan, from 23-27 September 2013. SCUFN is tasked to select those names to appear in the products of the IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) and on International nautical charts. The meeting, chaired by Dr Hans Werner SCHENKE from the Alfred Wegener Institut for Polar und Marine Research (AWI – Germany), was attended by 28 participants, including nine of the 12 SCUFN members (from Argentina, Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Rep. of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and USA). The meeting took note of the absence for the second consecutive meeting of IHO nominated Member Cdr. Muhammad BASHIR (Pakistan) who, according to the SCUFN Terms of Reference, is therefore considered to have resigned from the Sub-Committee. Nominations to fill the vacancy will be sought before the next meeting.



Attendees at SCUFN 26, Tokyo, Japan

Committee.

A web Gazetteer interface (Internet version of the GEBCO Gazetteer) was presented at the meeting. It provides access to any undersea feature name in the Gazetteer and its associated details, including showing the feature geometry on a background bathymetric map. Name search can be made through a specific term, such as *Cook*, or a generic term / type, such as *Seamount*. Development of the web Gazetteer interface has been overseen by the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB), hosted at the US National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) in Boulder, Colorado. Presentation of the web Gazetteer, which was formally released during SCUFN-26 (see http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/), was very well received by the meeting. The underlying Gazetteer database is maintained by a network of appointed editors (SCUFN members in the future) under coordination of an administrator who is currently the SCUFN secretary from the IHB.

The sub-committee considered the comments expressed by IHO Member States, following circulation of a new edition of publication B-6 Standardization of Undersea Feature Names, which had been finalized intersessionally by SCUFN members. No new issues arose from those comments.

The next meeting of SCUFN has been planned at the IHO headquarters in Monaco from 16-20 June 2014.

In total, the Sub-Committee considered and discussed 107 undersea feature names, including 22 names that were pending from previous meetings; 53 newly proposed names and 32 names proposed for adoption by the New Zealand Geographical Board (NZGB). Of these, 84 new names were selected by the sub-committee for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer of undersea feature names, subject to approval by its parent body, the GEBCO Guiding