

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
11th EAtHC-CHAtO MEETING
ACCRA, GHANA 24-26 November 2010

IHB REPORT

The IHB would like to brief the EAtHC participants on some issues of general interest. They will be presented following the 2010 IHO Work Programme scheme layout:

Programme 1 Corporate Affairs
Element 1.1 Cooperation with International Organizations

IMO

The IHB submitted an information paper to IMO MSC87. The paper was accepted and IMO issued a letter to its members inviting to consider the importance of hydrography and the benefits of becoming IHO members in order to better fulfill their international obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 9 covering Hydrographic Services.

IOC

IOC while continues to be a parent organization supporting GEBCO, has deleted from its organigram the Ocean Mapping Program. In this scenario GEBCO decided to establish a new Sub Committee known as Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM) to continue the work earlier conducted by the Ocean Mapping Programme of IOC.

IALA

The IHB is closely working with IALA on the fundamentals of e-navigation concept.

PMAWCA

The IHO has been represented by the EatHC Chair at the Council and technical meetings held by the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa. It is felt that this opportunity to keep Port Authorities informed on IHO efforts to improve the hydrographic level in the region shall be continued, nevertheless it is not evident, on the IHB opinion, that attending PMAWCA has had any notable effect.

Element 1.2 Information Management

WEBSITE

The IHO Website continues to be “the main communication tool with MSs and the IHO external world”. As always, this communication service can be improved and comments are always welcome, as well as updated information therein included.

Publications

International Hydrographic Review

The IHR in its digital format is ready to see the light for the forth time in a few days from now. In accordance with IHO Resolution 6/2009 the Editorial board for the IHR comprises a representative from each Regional Hydrographic Commission. The EAtHC has not nominated yet a representative and it is proposed to consider this issue.

As a result of the retirement of Mr Adam Kerr as editor, the Directing Committee has appointed Mr Ian Halls from Australia to take over commencing 1 January 2011. The IHB takes this opportunity to call for support in terms of articles as well as in experts that may allocate time to review the articles before they are published.

S-23

The S-23 Working Group is following the process agreed by the WG. So far the areas of concern have been identified and a meeting took place a few weeks ago, where discussion took place on how these areas of concern can be overcome such that a new edition of S-23 can be prepared for consideration at the next Hydrographic conference in 2012. Work continues on going.

Element 1.3 Public Relations

WHD

Again this year the celebration of the WHD was observed and followed by different MSs. The theme selected for 2011 is "Human resources – *The important element to the success of Hydrography*". The DC is absolutely aware that the celebration, due to different circumstances, might take place not necessarily on the same day. That should not constitute a problem or an impediment to miss the opportunity to highlight hydrography.

Element 1.4 IHO

New Structure

Protocol of Amendments of the IHO Convention

Progress on Member States' approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention unfortunately seem frozen since 29 Oct 2009, date of the ratification of the last country that submitted its ratification to the Government of Monaco. So far, 28 of the required 48 approvals had been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depositary nation for the IHO Convention. The IHYB is taking all opportunities to raise this issue.

Status of IHO MS

Two countries are waiting for approval from MS to become IHO Members: Haiti and Montenegro. Haiti has received 43 out of 52 required votes of support and Montenegro 51 out of 52 required. Other 3 countries of this region, Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leone, having received the required support from 2/3 IHO Member States, still have not deposited the Instrument of Accession, the last process to become IHO Member State.

WP and Budget 2011.

The IHB prepared the WP and Budget for 2011 and submit it to the FC for comments and later to MSs for approval. This WP and Budget will enter in force on 01 January 2011.

Element 1.5 IHB

IHB Staff

Mme Renée Caudoux retired in February after 23 years service and has been replaced by Mme Isabelle Belmonte. Her job has a stronger emphasis on desktop publishing, the management of the maintenance of IHO publications, and the use of the IHO website as the principal publishing medium. She also looks after the final edition of the IHR.

Mme Christine Meynadier, the Accounts and Administration Assistant, left the IHB after 11 years service at the IHB. Mme. Ghislaine Fauchois was recruited.

The untimely death of the IHB Office Manager M. Rachid Semlali has created a vacancy. The Directing Committee has reviewed the role and functions of the position and after a selection process has selected the person that will join the IHB on January 2011.

Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, will retire in May 2011. The Directing Committee issued a CL calling MSs for applicants for his position. The Directing Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of the IHO carried out the selection process. The DC

will interview three candidates and plans to make a final selection before the end of the year. The position shall be covered starting May 2011.

Element 1.6 IHC

Preparation for the XVIII IHC or IHO Assembly in April 2012 (if that is the case) has started at the IHB. I take this opportunity to call your attention on the need and opportunity to have constructive discussion with regard to any eventual proposal the EAHC MSs might wish to work and put forward. Also be aware that the Conference sets the WP and the budget for the following 5 or 3 years and the EAHC might wish that some activities be included in the WP. Also you might consider the fact that a new Directing Committee shall be elected.

Programme 2 Hydrographic Services and Standards

Element 2.1 Meetings

The second HSSC Meeting has just taken place in Rostok, Germany. Around 62 Persons from over 27 IHO MSs were present as well as 7 NGIO. The Chairs of 10 WG reported their work. Several notable topics were discussed including proposals concerning the HSSC input to the IHO Strategic Planning Process, and in particular ways to reduce the number of recommended Performance Indicators to a more manageable level.

Element 2.2 Hydrographic Surveying

The Manual on Hydrography has been translated into Portuguese by the Portuguese HO and the editing process in French is starting to take place, aimed at having its final text during 2011.

Element 2.3 Nautical Cartography

Global Availability of ENCs

The IHO made its annual report on the availability of ENCs to the 56th meeting of the IMO Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation (NAV56) in July. The report was based on the definition of “adequate ENC coverage” acknowledged by IMO in previous meetings. In effect, the definition acknowledged by IMO means that wherever there is a paper chart covering an international voyage, there should be a corresponding ENC by 2010.

The 2010 report was based on information that of the 154 States with a coastline, less than six will fail to meet or nearly meet the 2010 target. However, in many cases, this is due to the efforts of a very small number of IHO Member States that have created ENCs for other States. The IHB pointed out to delegates that some areas where paper chart coverage is limited, will have similarly limited ENC coverage for some time yet.

The IHO report pointed out that the identification of “international voyages” used in the report was based on total tonnage statistics for ports. Therefore, there may be some areas of the world frequented by relatively few vessels, where ENC coverage may still be missing. The report invited relevant authorities to bring any such shortfalls to the attention of the relevant coastal State and to the IHB so that the matter can be addressed.

The IHO report for 2011 will be particularly significant, since that report will cover the period after the IHO’s 2010 target has passed – by which time 100% “adequate coverage” is being anticipated by the IMO.

ECDIS News

The HSSC2 learned of certain shortcomings in the way that the governing IHO standards for ECDIS may have been inappropriately implemented by some equipment manufacturers and

the potential consequences for safety of navigation. As a result, the committee agreed that the ECDIS test data set should be enhanced and recommended that an urgent meeting be arranged between the relevant stakeholders, including IHO, ECDIS manufacturers, equipment type-approval authorities, and maritime Administrations to discuss further the situation.

Element 2.4 Data for Geomatics Application

S-100

At the HSSC2 Meeting just held in Rostok, S-99 - management rules and procedures for the operation of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry (GI Registry) was endorsed. As a result, the HSSC decided to recommend that IHO Member States adopt S-99 as an active standard from 1 January 2011.

At the same time, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the IMO Correspondence Group on e-Navigation are expressing an increasing interest in using the S-100 GI Registry to support their complementary maritime data requirements and the e-Navigation concept in the future. This is all very much in keeping with the philosophy behind introducing S-100 as a flexible, extensible, contemporary standard to encourage the widest possible use of hydrographic data and information standards beyond the fields of hydrography and nautical charting.

MSDI Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure

RHCs have been invited to consider this item for discussion. At the last HSSC Meeting a paper was submitted which raises the increasing importance of this subject and the possible demand of training.

Element 2.5 Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea

ABLOS Conference

25/27 October, at the IHB, the 6th ABLOS Conference took place. Over 27 Presentations were delivered to the over 90 Participants to the event.

Programme 3 “Inter Regional Coordination and Support”

Element 3.1 Cooperation with Member States

IRCC2

The IRCC2 took place in New Orleans and the Committee is starting to find its identity. All RHCs were present with the exception of the RSAHC. Decisions adopted include several that were identified for RHCs’ action and other activities that have been included in the IHO WP for 2011.

Arctic RHC

The Directing Committee took part at the inaugural meeting of the Arctic RHC in Canada, 04/06 October. The Directing Committee is also representing the IHO in parallel discussions within IALA, where a similar regional group is being established to coordinate aids to navigation services in the high Arctic.

Element 3.2 Cooperation with non Member States

The IHB DC takes all opportunities to highlight the importance of the participation of non IHO countries in the IHO and particularly in the RHCs technical work. The IHB has motivated

these countries with a relative success. Non Member States have received technical visits, have been considered in training initiatives have been offered advise but the reaction is still a bit slow. There are many countries with out any safety information, hydrographic and cartographic capability and with no governmental agency responsible for the national provision of hydrographic services, but the worst is that it seems they do not have the willingness to consider the support offered by the IHO. Several countries within the area of coordination of the EAtHC are absent and that is a serious problem that affects national, regional and international safety to navigation and deserves, in the opinion of the IHB, serious consideration.

Element 3.3 Capacity Building Management

The CBSC in its last meeting in May, updated the CBWP for 2010 and agreed on a CBWP for 2011. At the initiative of the IHB , CB coordination meetings have continues to take place with the CB officers of IMO, WMO, IAEA and IALA (IOC unfortunately was absent this time). The CBSC Chair also participates. This coordination has ended in join initiatives and new opportunities for training. The EatHC will benefited from this during 2011 with two courses, each of 2 weeks duration, one centered on hydrographic survey and the second one, centered in nautical cartography.

At this time I would like to highlight that several countries have contributed with instructors, have offered to coordinate and host events and have made it possible to make the best possible use of the CBFund.

Element 3.4 Capacity Building Assessment

During 2010 there was no activity in this region. Planed technical visits have been postponed to 2011.

Element 3.5 Capacity Building Provision

The IHB has provided all possible support to the countries that have been volunteer to host courses or other initiatives that have been included in the CBWP. As early indicated, in 2011 there shall be two courses.

Element 3.6 Marine Safety Information

The MSI course delivered by the Training Team of the WWNWSSC has reached a maturity stage. Training aids have been translated into French and Spanish, to facilitate the training process, despite the day to day working/operating language is English.

The IHB is working on an addition to this course, consisting in two days to cover the fundamentals of hydrography and nautical cartography, so that people involved on MSI provision be knowledgeable on the relation and effects of these two disciplines in its day to day work.

Element 3.7 Ocean Mapping Programme

Shallow Water Bathymetry

This is one of the high priorities of GEBCO. Shallow water bathymetry is essential for ocean modeling , particularly for the preparation of inundation maps due to tsunami and storm surges. HOs are requested to contribute with their data to the IHO Data Center Digital Bathymetry.

This Report constitutes a synthesis of the IHB activities that shall be of the interest of EAtHC Member States.

Action Requested of EAtHC

EAtHC Members are invited to take **Note** of this Report and take any actions as considered appropriate.