

**For the Bulletin**  
**IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Simon's Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October 2009**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) took place in Simon's Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October 2009, organized with great success by Captain Abri KAMPFER, Hydrographer of South Africa with the cooperation of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP).

The Chairman, Capt GORZIGLIA (IHB Director) welcomed the 12 IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela), the 5 international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO, GEBCO, IBCSO and SCAR) and the SANAP that attended and participated actively in the event.

The Commission reviewed the status of membership and confirmed that the Commission is formed by 23 IHO Member States, being the Republic of Korea and Venezuela the two last members to join the HCA. After this formality and following Art 5.2 of the Statutes, the Commission re-elected Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF (UK) as Vice Chairman of the HCA.

The Commission reviewed the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting and confirmed that all actions had been completed. The reports of the international organizations as well as from IHO Member States were commented as well as the reports on the progress made regarding the INT chart scheme, ENC scheme and production and on the C-55 status with regard to the Antarctica. Several actions were identified to progress further the subjects discussed.

The Commission took note with satisfaction of the constant support and contribution made by COMNAP and IAATO. It was agreed to deliver a seminar on the Importance of Hydrography in Antarctica at the next IAATO Annual Meeting that shall take place in Turin, Italy, June 2010 and also to conduct technical visits to IAATO ships before heading to Antarctica to brief Captains on the procedure to collect and render hydrographic data after acting as Ships of Opportunity. It was felt that the presence of representatives of ATCM and IMO would have been desired to enrich the discussions had.

Especial discussion took place to identify the main topics to be included in the presentation and discussion that shall take place at the Antarctic Treaty Experts Meeting that shall take place in December 2009 to discuss about matters related to Tourism in Antarctica.

Another relevant discussion took place following the report of the Chairman of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Prioritization Working Group, successfully chaired by Mr. Andy Willett (UK). As a result of an interesting exchange of views, several actions were identified, all aiming at improving the safety of navigation as quickly as possible, through the exchange and collection of high priority new hydrographic data, needed to produce the INT Charts in the region "M" scheme.

The Commission also agreed on a number of actions to be carried out during the intersessional period, with clear identification of the responsibilities and deadlines.

Following a kind invitation from the UKHO, the Commission decided to have the 10<sup>th</sup> HCA meeting in the United Kingdom. Venue and dates (last week of September or first week of October) to be confirmed.

END



HCA Group photo with Rear Admiral Robert HIGGS (SAN) at Simon's Town square.