

## 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee

### Mexico City, Mexico, 27 to 29 May 2015

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC13) was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 27 to 29 May, hosted by the Mexican *Secretaría de Marina* at the premises of the *Centro de Estudios Superiores Navales*. The meeting was chaired by Mr Thomas Dehling (Germany) and attended by 18 members and 14 observers from 13 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs), 19 Member States and two observing organizations. The IHB was represented by Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves (CBSC Secretary).

The Sub-Committee reviewed the impact of the revised IHO Capacity Building (CB) Strategy approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5) on the work of the CBSC, especially in building the Management Plan, the access of non-Member States only to Phase 1 activities, the need to identify larger and comprehensive projects to attract funding from donor agencies and the development of a Public Relations paper to raise awareness of the importance of the IHO CB Programme and to improve its visibility.

The Sub-Committee considered the increasing number of CB activities, the associated administrative workload, intersessional correspondence and meeting workload. The Sub-Committee acknowledged the challenges on the existing limitations of the IHO secretariat to support the administration of the CB programme.

The increasing interaction with the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC), the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) and the Tides, Water Level and Current Working Group (TWCWG) was considered with respect to the feedback to the CB activities, the assessment of the need for further support and the development of course material.

The CBSC considered the development of the current IHO publication C-55 - *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide* and its transition to a GIS database environment, the development of supporting databases (the Country Information System and the regional database), the progress made in the IHO GIS infrastructure and the possibilities for creating an improved C-55 function by using Category of Zones of Confidence (CATZOC) values extracted from ENCs. This work will enable country profiles to be created to support the decision-making process when dealing with CB resources.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the draft CB Procedure 9 - *Technical Visits* and agreed to use this draft procedure for one year and obtain feedback before considering formal approval at the next CBSC meeting. The CBSC acknowledged the continuing significant contributions made by the Republic of Korea and Japan, through the Nippon Foundation (NF), to the IHO CB Programme. The Sub-Committee also acknowledged the significant contributions from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) in supporting the development of hydrographic services in developing states through the delivery of joint capacity building programmes.

The meeting commended the work by New Zealand in developing an evidence-based risk assessment methodology and its implementation in the SWPHC to establish priorities for surveys and charting. Other developments were presented by the UK (the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States – OECS Project), the Republic of Korea (the EAHC Training, Research and Development Center), France (the EAHC Definition Study for a Long Term CB Project) and Mexico (Strengthening the Hydrographic Capabilities in Meso-America and Caribbean Sea).

The CB Management Plan (CBMP) was reviewed and approved by the meeting as the basis for the 2016 CB Work Programme (CBWP). The meeting also approved the 2014 CBWP and updated the

2015 CBWP. The CBSC expressed some concern that there were currently only limited financial resources available to execute the full 2016 CBWP.

The next meeting of the CBSC will be held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) from 24 to 26 May 2016. A full report of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of CBSC will be published on the IHO website.



Participants at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee