



13th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE



Yangon, Myanmar
19 – 22 February 2013

IHB Report

New Directing Committee – Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September 2012. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in Circular Letter 77/2012 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa İpteş will oversee IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero will oversee Programme 2 – the IHO technical programme.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

2. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania, Montenegro and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive their instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.

3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By January 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	31 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	29 of 52 required
Georgia	20 of 54 required

4. The following IHO Member States of the NIOHC have not yet responded with their vote:

State	No responses as yet from:
Viet Nam	Egypt, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand
Brunei Darussalam	Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand
Georgia	Egypt, India, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand

5. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives which may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

Suspended Member States

6. Suriname was welcomed back into full membership last year; only Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHB is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual fees.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

7. By January 2013, 38 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.

8. The Government of Monaco has not yet received notification of a response to the Protocol of Amendments from the following IHO Member States of the NIOHC eligible to be counted: Egypt, India, Myanmar and Thailand.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region J

9. The current version of S-11 Region J on the IHO website is dated September 2009. No updates have been received at the IHB since then. India, as INT coordinator, is invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to S-11.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

10. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May 2012 reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an authoritative and up to date reference collection of the ENCs and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENCs which are published. The ENC data will be maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, it will NOT be provided to any other parties.

11. Responses to CL 51/2012 are as follows:

State	Remarks
Bangladesh	no information provided to IHB
Egypt	no information provided to IHB
India	no information provided to IHB
Myanmar	no information provided to IHB
Saudi Arabia	no information provided to IHB
Sri Lanka	no information provided to IHB
Thailand	no information provided to IHB
UK	ENCs to be provided through External Relations

12. Those ENC Producer States which have not responded to CL 51/2012 are requested to do so as soon as possible.

C-55 Updates

13. The latest updated information in C-55 – *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* – submitted by Member States in the NIOHC region is as follows:

State	C-55 last update
Bangladesh	15 February 2009
Egypt	-
India	1 February 2011
Myanmar	1 April 2008
Saudi Arabia	30 December 2003
Sri Lanka	1 February 2011
Thailand	1 February 2011
UK	25 January 2010

14. All NIOHC region Member States are invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to C-55 on at least an annual basis. Envelopes containing printouts of the current versions of Member States' C-55 composite entries and those of the Year Book have been distributed. The IHB would be grateful for delegates to up-date the information and return the envelopes to me before the end of this meeting.

IHO Publicity

15. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2013 is "*Hydrography – supporting the blue economy*". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms which will appeal both to the public and to politicians and administrators. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website.

16. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. EIHC 5 will take place 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco. In a new departure from previous conferences, it is proposed to set aside time for various bodies to highlight their work and programmes. It is hoped these sessions will provoke discussion and throw-up ideas for new work and engagement in areas not previously investigated. It may well cause Member States to question the work being undertaken by some bodies and event if some bodies continue to have relevance in the future.

17. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their regions. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the NIOHC region is Rear-Admiral K R Srinivasan (India).

18. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (jan.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

19. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme over the next five years is forecast to be considerably lower than in the past five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfil their requirements. In many RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits. This has taken the form of industry representatives attending some or all parts of RHC meetings as observers, and included participation and the provision of equipment and instructor in the technical workshops and training, both as part of an RHC meeting and in separate RHC training events.

Action Requested of NIOHC Member States

20. NIOHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Report** in-country progress on voting on New Member States and the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through India as coordinator for INT Region J;
- **Respond** to CL 51/2012 as appropriate;
- **Provide** updates to C-55 and Year Book as appropriate; and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.