

**NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
SEVENTH MEETING, 28 February – 2 March, 2007, PATTAYA, THAILAND**

**Note by Germany**

**Report on hydrographic assistance to tsunami affected countries**

**Agenda Item 8**

**1. Background**

Germany had been involved in a bilateral assistance project with Sri Lanka to strengthening the National Hydrographic Office of Sri Lanka in the years from 1986 to 1998. Immediately after the tsunami disaster Germany had received an early request for assistance from the Sri Lankan NHO which prompted quick steps to replace equipment that had been destroyed by the tsunami. For that reason, Germany was invited to attend, as an observer, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC Meeting 2005 and 2006, resp., to take part in the coordination of the tsunami assistance projects. It was decided (NIOHC5 decision 7b) that countries concerned "should confirm level of assistance required from donor countries".

As it turned out that at that time, the request from Sri Lanka to Germany was the only one from an HO, Germany was given the task to coordinate any "out-of-area" assistance to NIOHC members (NIOHC5 decision 7c). This was subsequently endorsed by the special session on the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean held in Monaco following the 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The "Table of Reported Damage and Requested Assistance" developed at the 5<sup>th</sup> NIOHC meeting was also updated there and in the 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC Conference – see enclosure -, and countries affected were invited to provide any requests for assistance with necessary details preferably via diplomatic channels.

**2. Activities**

Aid provided by Germany

As there have been no further requests for assistance from any other country, German assistance concentrated again on Sri Lanka, taking advantage of the budget approved by the German Government. This budget was available up the end of the year 2006.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> NIOHC, the IHB offered an additional budget made available by the IMO. This offer of 50.000 US\$ was substantiated later on, and made available to Sri Lanka through BSH, Germany.

In 2005, Germany had delivered to Sri Lanka 3 survey equipment packages, each consisting of echosounder with side scan sonar, GPS Receiver, CTD probe, Notebook, flat screen monitor, and surveying data acquisition software. In addition, 2 software packages (CARIS) for data processing (incl. training), and a Total Station for coastline surveying were provided. This equipment became operational in 2005.

In 2006, the two tide gauge systems in Trincomalee and Kirinda, which both were destroyed by the tsunami, were replaced, and the stations reconstructed by Sri Lanka. These tide gauge stations became operational in summer 2006 and are connected now to the international tsunami warning system coordinated by IOC.

After consultation with the Sri Lankan NHO, a subbottom profiler was purchased by BSH, Germany, using the funds provided by IMO through IHB. This equipment was shipped to Sri Lanka in fall 2006. Some additional funds were made available by IHB for capacity building to provide for training.

During 2006, it became clear that the multibeam sonar system the destroyed survey vessel "Sayuri" was equipped with, could not be repaired and had to be written off as total loss. As the insurance claim could not be settled in time, the Sri Lankan NHO decided to use the remaining German funds for the MBES replacement. The procurement of the MBES was completed by the end of 2006, and the equipment was shipped to Sri Lanka mid February 2007.

The replacement of the survey vessel "Sayuri" has been initiated by Sri Lanka using own funds.

This completes the tsunami aid for hydrography provided to Sri Lanka by Germany.

#### Aid provided by France

France had offered to put one of its survey vessels to provide coast surveys of Eastern coast of Sri Lanka. Because of ongoing security concerns this aid programme had to put on hold for the time being.

#### Other countries

No information was received by Norway about results of their fact finding.

India is yet to deliver to Sri Lanka the digital survey data it has collected during surveys of Sri Lanka ports immediately after the tsunami (see Table of Reported Damage and Requests for Assistance).

No other information was received.

### **3. Concluding remark**

While the German tsunami aid funds is closed now, any further aid programme will have to be based on bilateral programmes. Germany is principally willing, as far as possible, to cooperate with any country on capacity building.