

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
4th RSAHC MEETING
MUSCAT, OMAN 21-22 March 2011

IHB REPORT
by Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director

Introduction.

Following Decision 11 of the XVIIth IHC in 2007, the re-structuring of the IHO Committees and other Groups was implemented starting 01 January 2009. This new Structure considers three Committees: the Finance Committee (FC); the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and their subsidiary bodies.

At the 4th EIHC in 2009 Decision 3 approved a revised IHO Strategic Plan which among other aspects, identifies 4 Strategic Directions:

1. Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the IHO
2. Facilitate global coverage and use of official hydrographic data, products and services.
3. Raise global awareness of the importance of hydrography
4. Assist Member States to fulfill their roles

and 3 Programs:

Program 1: *Corporate Affairs* under the responsibility of the IHB

Program 2: *Hydrographic Services and Standards* under the responsibility of HSSC

Program 3: *Inter Regional Coordination and Support* under the responsibility of the IRCC

This Report aims at briefing the RSAHC participants on some of the issues of general interest occurred since the last RSAHC meeting and in order to facilitate the presentation, we have selected the layout of the 3 programs as in the IHO 2010 Work Program:

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 continuing to be a parent organization supporting GEBCO, has deleted the Ocean Mapping Program from its organization. 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 and Arctic coordination.

Element 1.2 Information Management

WEBSITE

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

PUBLICATIONS

Access to IHO Publications

The policy established considers that almost all publications are free of charge and in digital form and can be consulted and downloaded as required from the IHO web site. The IHB is not providing hard copies of the majority of the publications unless expressly required and funded.

International Hydrographic Review

Since 2009 the IHR exists in digital format. Following the retirement of Mr Adam Kerr, the former editor, the Directing Committee appointed Mr Ian Halls from Australia as the new Editor who took over his responsibilities in January this year.

In accordance with IHO Resolution 6/2009 an Editorial Board comprising representatives from each Regional Hydrographic Commission shall support the work of the Editor. The RSAHC has not nominated yet a representative and it is proposed to consider this issue. 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 months 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.

Element 1.3 Public Relations

WHD

In 2010 the WHD was widely celebrated with the central theme “Hydrographic services – The essential element for maritime trade”.

This year it has been decided to recognize the important contribution and the importance of “hydrographers” the men and women working in the field collecting data and information and in offices preparing hydrographic and cartographic charting products and to motivate new generations in these fields. For that reason the selected theme is “Human resources – *The important element to the success of Hydrography*”.

The Directing Committee 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 the importance of our contribution to society.

Element 1.4 IHO

Protocol of Amendments of the IHO Convention

Progress on Member States’ approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention is unfortunately quiet slow. The last country that submitted its ratification to the Government of Monaco was Poland on 03 February 2011. So far, 30 of the required 48 approvals have been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depository nation for the IHO Convention. The IHB 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 45 out of 52 required votes of support and Montenegro 51 out of 52 required. The Monaco Government has not received the expression of support from RSAHC Member States, with the sole exception of Pakistan who approved both countries. The IHB takes this opportunity to invite relevant RSAHC Member States to take action on this important subject.

Another 4 countries Bulgaria, Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leona, having received the required support from 2/3 IHO Member States, still have not deposited the Instrument of Accession, which is the last process required for them to become IHO Member State.

WP and Budget 2011.

The IHB prepared the WORK PROGRAMME and Budget for 2011 and submitted it to the Finance Committee for comments and later to Member States for approval. This WORK PROGRAMME and Budget entered in force 01 January 2011.

Element 1.5 IHB

IHB Staff

After the retirement of two staff members and the sad death of the IHB Office Manager, the directing committee has recruited their replacement, after having reviewed and adapted their jobs to the new structure of the IHO. In one case, for example, 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 was made.

Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, will retire in May 2011. The Directing Committee issued a CL calling Member States for applicants for his position. The Directing Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of the IHO carried out the selection process. The directing committee interviewed three candidates and selected Captain Alberto Costa Neves from Brazil. The position will be covered starting May this year.

Element 1.6 IHC

Preparation for the XVIII IHC or IHO Assembly 23/27 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 RSAHC Member States might wish to work and put forward. Also be aware that the Conference sets the Work Programme and the budget for the following 5 or 3 years and the RSAHC might wish that some activities be included in the Work Programme. Also you might consider the fact that a new Directing Committee shall be elected.

The first two CCL were issued on the 11 of March and the IHB invites Member States to give close attention to these CCL and those that will follow.

Programme 2 Hydrographic Services and Standards

Element 2.1 Meetings

The second HSSC Meeting took place in Rostok, Germany. Around 62 Persons from over 27 IHO Member States were present as well as 7 NGIOs. 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 a meeting be arranged between the relevant stakeholders, including IHO, ECDIS manufacturers, equipment type-approval authorities, and maritime Administrations to discuss further the situation.

The meeting in the form of a workshop was hosted by the IHB in Monaco on 15 -16 February 2011. The discussions at the workshop reflected four principal themes:

- the requirement for software in ECDIS equipment already fitted in ships to be periodically upgraded when appropriate;
- improving mariner awareness of the need to upgrade ECDIS software;
- improving the consistency of data encoding in ENCs; and
- the need for a coordinated reporting, assessment and feedback mechanism for ECDIS-related equipment performance issues.

Element 2.4 Data for Geomatics Application

S-100

At the HSSC2 Meeting, 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 – *Operational Procedures for the Organization and Management of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry* – as an active standard, a proposal that was agreed. Edition 1.0.0 of Publication S-99 can be downloaded from the IHO website.

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 entitled “*Contentious Issues in UNCLOS – Surely Not?*” 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. All RHCs were present with the exception of the RSAHC. The IRCC2 expressed concern by the lack of participation of the RSAHC.

Decisions adopted include several that were identified for RHCs’ action and other activities that have been included in the IHO WORK PROGRAMME for 2011.

Of particular interest to RHCs are the following actions agreed:

- IRCC02/01 Adopt objectives to accelerate the process of ratification of the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline. (Action :Bahrain, I.R of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates)
- IRCC02/02 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership (Action : All except Pakistan)
- IRCC02/05 Report to IRCC3 on:
 - a. the methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements.
 - b. the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010).
 - c. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005).
 - d. strategies to involve non-IHO Member States in RHC’s activities (Iraq case)
- IRCC02/06 Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB. (Ask for volunteer)
- IRCC02/08 Consider any opportunity to re-launch the regional activities in the ROPME area, e.g. by holding simultaneous or back-to-back meetings. (This was agreed due to lack of activity of the RSAHC - Solved)
- IRCC02/12 Request follow up reports from recipients of CB Fund support and submit them to the IHB. (Does not apply to RSAHC as there has been no activity)
- IRCC02/14 Progress the tasks outlined in the WEND-WG terms of reference and especially:
 - a. Monitor progress in providing ENC coverage and identify and propose solutions to issues of concern such as gaps and overlaps. This should include consideration of the

MBSHC paper to the WEND WG.

- b. Investigate and report on the significance of other areas of concern:
 - variation in licensing terms and conditions
 - reports of ENC quality and updating issues
- c. Keep RHC Chairs informed of ENC issues identified within their regions.
- d. Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV Sub-Committee.
- e. Prepare a report for IRCC3. (How RSAHC can contribute to these activities??)

IRCC02/17 Consider ways to strengthen collaboration with RHCs with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.
(How RSAHC can contribute to these activities??)

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 has been established to coordinate aids to navigation services in the high Arctic.

Element 3.2 Cooperation with non Member States

The IHB Directing Committee takes all opportunities to highlight the importance of the participation of non IHO countries in the IHO and particularly in the RHCs technical work. In the case of the RSAHC, the only non IHO MS is Iraq. Probably a strategy could be worked at some point to invite Iraq to take part in the RSAHC meetings, initially as Observer, as the Statutes so define.

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 continued to take place with the CB officers of IMO, WMO, IOC, IAEA and IALA. This coordination has ended in joint initiatives and new opportunities for training.

Unfortunately due to the lack of participation we have highlighted before in this Report, the RSAHC has not benefited from the IHO CB efforts.

As this matter will be discussed in detail under Item 13 we will not offer more comments at this time.

Element 3.4 Capacity Building Assessment

Since 2008 there have been no technical visits to countries in the region coordinated jointly by the CBSC and the IHB. In 2007 the I.R. of Iran, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were visited and Bahrain in 2008, but since then there has been no activity in the RSAHC region.

All visits generated a report including conclusions and recommendations. The CBSC has been interested in learning the follow up action after the visits, if any, but regrettably the IHB or the CBSC Chair have received feedback only from Bahrain, following a special request made by the IHB in November 2009. For 2011 it is not anticipated any technical visit, as no requirement has been put forward to the CBSC.

Element 3.5 Capacity Building Provision

The provision of Capacity Building has been guided by the CBWP.

Each year the CBSC meets to assess the progress made, adjust the program in force and approve the following year CBWP. Meetings are held annually according to the CBSC ToR in May or early June, so that the agreed CBWP be included timely in the general IHO WP that MS shall approve following the IHO Planning Cycle.

Element 3.6 Marine Safety Information

The MSI course delivered by the Training Team of the WWNWS Sub Committee 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 the RSAHC Member States.

<p>Action Requested of RSAHC: RSAHC Members are invited to take Note of this Report and take any actions as considered appropriate</p>
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