

**Report of the IHB to the 7th meeting of the
Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission**
(La Reunion, 16-17 September 2009)

During the intercessional period the Organization and the Bureau were busy on numerous issues, a brief description of which is provided as follows:

- The main event that needs to be mentioned was the 4th EIHC that took place during the first week of June in Monaco. 215 delegates participated from 61 Member States and 31 observers from non Member States, International Organizations and NGOs. Two ships visited Monaco during the Conference. One from USA and the other from Russia Federation. The Conference examined 15 Proposals submitted by the ISPWG, HCIWWG, MSDIWG and Member States. It is of interest to mention that the Conference approved a new definition for Hydrography and the revised Strategic Plan of the Organization, proposed by the ISPWG.
- A resolution that invites relevant RHCs, through their appropriate liaison bodies to encourage the consistent use of hydrographic and nautical cartographic standards and mutual cooperation for the enhancement of navigation safety in navigable inland waters within and between regions was adopted. A half day seminar was organized where status reports on ENC developments were presented. This was followed by a useful discussion on various topics. Two resolutions were adopted on the coverage that Member States will have in place in 2010, and on the consistency and quality of ENC in relation to their respective paper charts. Member States have been asked with CL 35/2009 dated 10 June 2009 to report on the status of their national ENC Coverage. The report of the Conference is ready, and will soon be posted on the IHO web site. Member States will be informed of this through a CL;
- In parallel with the Conference a very interesting exhibition of hydrographic, cartographic and oceanographic equipments and software was organized, in which 30 companies participated;
- In the margins of the Conference four other events took place. These included the first meeting of the WG for the revision of S-23, the first meeting of the IRCC which elected Ingenieur General Gilles Bessero as its Chairman and the celebration of the WHD. The reports/minutes of these events have already been posted on the IHO web site. An item of interest worth highlighting was the approval by Member States to change the name of CPRNW to WWNWS, as was reported with CL 46/2009 dated 3 July 2009;

- The IHB Directing Committee also reported to the Conference on the very slow progress of the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention. Since July 2005 only 25 Member States have approved the Protocol of Amendments;
- Starting on the 1st of January 2009, the new technical structure of the Organization came into force, with the establishment of the two main Committees. The inaugural meeting of the HSSC will take place in Singapore between the 22nd and 24th of October, following the 3rd International Conference on ECDIS, also scheduled to take place in Singapore from 19th to the 21st of October. Details have been provided to Member States with CL 21/2009 dated 2 April 2009;
- The IMO MSC has adopted the amendments to SOLAS Chapter V/19, introducing mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS with a phased implementation period beginning 2012 and ending 2018. The amendments will come into force on the 1st of July 2010. The revised text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety information, which will come into force on the 1st of January 2011, was also approved. Details have been provided to Member States with CL 41/2009 dated 17 June 2009 and CL 47/2009 dated 06 July 2009;
- The Organization has maintained an excellent cooperation with IMO, IALA, IOC and WMO. Especially it has to be highlighted the active participation and support of the Organization, on the E-Navigation activities of IMO and IALA. France and UK have to be thanked for supporting these activities by providing representatives to meetings when requested, at no cost to the Organization. In capacity building activities there is a meeting taking place every year between the persons in charge of this activity in IMO, IHO and IOC where training and seminars of need in various regions are coordinated between the three organizations. With IOC there is a very active and efficient cooperation in GEBCO, Regional BCS and tides;
- In Capacity Building the Organization implements a very active program based on the proposals offered by the RHCs. It has to be noted that the Bureau, Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Hydrographic Association and the UKHO, are cooperating for the implementation of the Japan Capacity Building Project, through funds provided by the Nippon Foundation. Details of this 5-year program have been provided in CLs 10/2009 dated 13 February 2009 and 24/2009 dated 24 April 2009;