

10th Meeting of IHO South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)
Honiara, Solomon Islands, 9-10 November 2010

Report by SWPHC Capacity Building Coordinator (Australia)

1. IHO CBSC Meetings

Australia represented the SWPHC at the two IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) meetings held since the last SWPHC Conference – i.e. the 7th IHO CBSC Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 11-13 May 2009) and the 8th IHO CBSC Meeting (New Orleans, USA, 14-16 June 2010).

At both the meetings there were participants from 15 IHO Member States and the IHB. Discussions dwelt on the Capacity Building (CB) activities carried out so far, and assessing these so as to use it as basis for future development. It was agreed that the SW Pacific, Central America and Africa are the areas of highest priority for CB.

Australia reported on the Technical Workshop for regional hydrographic representatives held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 9th March 2009, preceding the 9th IHO SWPHC Conference held there. The workshop was well organized and its main objectives were to raise awareness at governmental level of the importance of hydrography to safety of navigation and national economic development, and to explore initiatives of common regional interest.

The CBSC has agreed to revise the “Procedures for Submission of Projects” in order to make them less complicated and easier to use. A Drafting Group comprising Australia, Germany, Norway and USA has been assigned this task. Furthermore it was considered feasible to utilise contracted support to Regional Hydrographic Commissions to manage CB activities, prepare submissions, etc. The scope of this work was to be defined by a Drafting Group (Australia, France, UK and USA).

The new IHO Structure requires the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CBSC to be representatives from Member States. Accordingly Latvia and USA were elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Capacity Building Projects identified by SWPHC

CBSC addressed SWPHC’s request for its seven projects and their current status is as follows:

- (1) SWPHC representation at PACMA Meeting (Tonga, 11-12 May 2009)
 - Approved. Mr Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand) represented SWPHC at the meeting
- (2) Technical Assessment & Advisory Visit to Solomon Islands
 - Approved. Captain Robert Ward (Director, IHO) and Ingénieur en chef Michel Huet (IHB Secretariat) undertook a technical assessment visit to The Solomon Islands from 26 to 29 October 2009.
- (3) Technical Assessment & Advisory Visit to Cook Islands
 - Approved. To be executed in 2011.
- (4) Technical Assessment & Advisory Visit to Kiribati
 - Approved. To be executed in 2011.
- (5) Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Regional Workshop
 - Approved. Carried out in Sydney, Australia on 17-19 August 2010.
- (6) Regional Nautical Cartography Course
 - Modified the proposal for a 8-week regional course to a 2-week course on ‘Introduction to Hydrographic Surveying and Introduction to Chart Production’. Conducted in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 11 to 21 October 2010.
- (7) Nautical Cartography Training Course for Fiji
 - Addressed to some extent. A candidate from Fiji was selected to attend the 1st 5-week Module of the UK Category B Course in Marine Cartography conducted in Singapore from 22 February to 26 March 2010.

2. Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Regional Workshop - Sydney, 17-19 August 2010

A MSI Workshop was conducted in Sydney, Australia from 17th to 19th August 2010. Australia, in association with the IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS) and the IHB, coordinated this event. Primary funding was provided by the IHO with supplementation also received from the International Maritime Organization.

The workshop provided practical guidance for those who are concerned with drafting Radio Navigational Warnings or with the issuance of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for the high seas under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). USA and UK provided the lead instructors for this training, and were assisted by Australia (NAVAREA X coordinator) and New Zealand (NAVAREA XIV coordinator).

A total of 12 students from the SW Pacific nations attended the course, as follows:

Cook Islands (1), Fiji (2), French Polynesia (1), Kiribati (1), New Caledonia (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Solomon Islands (1), Samoa (1), Tonga (2), Vanuatu (1).

3. 'Introduction to Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Cartography' Course – Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 11-21 October 2010

At the 2009 meeting the SWPHC had identified a 'Regional Nautical Cartography Course' as one of its CB projects.

Considering that 4 applicants from SWPHC had been selected to attend the Course in Marine Cartography in Singapore from 22 Feb - 26 Mar 2010 (an IHO CBSC Project), the IHB in consultation with the CBSC Chair, SWPHC Chair (France) and the SWPHC Representative to CBSC (Australia) decided to postpone the 'Regional Nautical Cartographic Course' to 2011. Furthermore it would be more appropriate to have the '2-weeks Course on Hydrographic Survey and Introduction to Chart Production' before moving to a more cartographic oriented course.

Accordingly the 2-week course was delivered in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) from 11-21 October 2010. National Maritime Safety Authority, PNG assisted with local liaison and logistical requirements. Australia and France provided an instructor each for the training course and industry support offered by Bruttour International Pty Ltd through use of its survey and data processing equipment.

A total of 13 students attended the course, from the following SW Pacific countries:

Cook Islands (1), Federated States of Micronesia (1), Fiji (2), Nauru (1), Palau (1), Papua New Guinea (4), Solomon Islands (1), Tonga (1), Vanuatu (1).

4. Course in Marine Cartography – Singapore, 22 February to 26 March 2010

As part of the IHO Capacity Building Project, a 5-week Course in Marine Cartography (1st Module of the recognized UK Category B Programme) was run in Singapore from 22 February to 26 March 2010. As reported in IHO Circular Letter 76/2009, it is noted that 31 Member States applied for this training and 10 were selected. Four of the successful applicants were from the SW Pacific, i.e. Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

A similar course will be conducted in Taunton, UK from 7 March to 8 April 2011. Applications for this are to reach the IHB no later than 30 November 2010. (refer IHO Circular Letter 68/2010 dated 21 October 2010).

5. Course in Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography – Taunton, UK, 6 September to 17 December 2010

IHO Circular Letter 30/2010 reported that 37 IHO Member States applied for this course offered by the Japan Capacity Building Project (funded by the Nippon Foundation). It is noted that one of the 6 successful candidates for this training was from a SW Pacific country (New Zealand).
