

**6th Conference of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
Suva, Fiji, 8-9 November 2004**

REPORT

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 Captain Inoke Ratodrodro (Director of Marine, Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration) welcomed all delegates to the 6th Conference of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC). He appreciated the work carried out by the Commission, as it would assist in the safety of navigation in the region. Captain Ratodrodro's welcome speech appears as **Annex 1**. A list of the delegates appears as **Annex 2**.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The agenda of the 6th Conference of the SWPHC, which had been distributed to all participants, was adopted (**see Annex 3**).

3. Review of Action Items from the 5th SWPHC Conference

The meeting discussed the status of the actions arising from the last SWPHC conference as follows (item numbers refer to the minutes of the 5th SWPHC Conference):

- 3.1 *Item 4.1 (Fiji to assume the Chair of the SWPHC effective 1 August 2003 and to host the next meeting)*
Action completed.
- 3.2 *Item 4.4 (Australia to pursue the consideration of HTF as the basis of an international standard for transfer of hydrographic survey data. This is to be undertaken through the IHO TSMAD Working Group)*
Action completed.
- 3.3 *Item 4.5 (Chair to continue liaison with SPC and SOPAC to generate impetus and enthusiasm for hydrographic projects in the SW Pacific region to enable capacity building. To represent the SWPHC at future relevant regional meetings of either SPC or SOPAC to present requirements/necessity for hydrographic activity).*
CAPT Kafer and Mr Maharaj met senior representatives of SOPAC and SPC in Fiji in December 2003. The meeting generated much interest and resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and SOPAC for, among other things, the exchange of hydrographic information. The IHB had informed Member States about this activity in its Circular Letter 52/2004. The meeting agreed that it was important for SWPHC to maintain close contact with SOPAC, and requested the Chair to liaise with SOPAC to implement a standing invitation for SWPHC (Chair or representative) to represent the IHB at SOPAC Council meetings.

Action (Chair) : To liaise with Director, SOPAC to implement a standing invitation for the SWPHC (Chair or representative) to represent the IHB at SOPAC Council meetings.

- 3.4 *Item 4.11 (Australia to continue correspondence with shipping lines regarding areas of inadequate surveys in SW Pacific. All Member States to provide information to Australia*

regarding concern in areas which are being utilized by shipping lines, etc. Australia to forward this information to IHB, SOPAC and SPC to generate aid for surveying programs to support shipping activities).

Australia had written to a number of shipping companies, including the cruise liners due to the increasing tourism activity in the region. Some feedback had been received from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and P&O Cruises. It included comprehensive reports of areas and anchorages currently used (in Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Tonga, etc). Australia stated that it would await further information and, by mid December 2004, provide all delegates with the feedback obtained. The meeting also requested that national hydrographic offices in the region (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) to provide Australia with information regarding concerns in areas which are being utilised by shipping lines (channels, navigable waterways, areas of frequent operation, etc). Australia would forward the consolidated information to the IHB, SOPAC and SPC to generate aid for surveying programmes to support shipping activities.

Action (Australia) : **To provide all Members, IHB, SOPAC and SPC the feedback received from shipping lines regarding areas of inadequate surveys in SW Pacific.**

Action (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) :
To provide information to Australia regarding concerns in areas which are being utilised by shipping lines, etc.

Action (Australia) : **To forward the consolidated information to the IHB, SOPAC and SPC to generate aid for surveying programmes to support shipping activities.**

- 3.5 *Item 4.13 (The IHB to provide PNG with copy of CDRE Cooper's report on benefits of hydrography in PNG, to enable the PNG Hydrographer to raise this internally).*
The IHB had forwarded a copy to the PNG Hydrographer.
- 3.6 *Item 4.13 (United Kingdom to undertake further investigation of potential areas where IHB support would assist the development of survey and charting activities).*
Action completed. The United Kingdom had informed that all of the areas in the region which are UK responsibility have substantial areas which are unsurveyed or not surveyed to modern standards (i.e. Fiji, Solomons, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Pitcairn). These could all, therefore, benefit from IHB support.
- 3.7 *Item 4.14 (Australia to continue representing SWPHC on the IHO SPWG).*
Discussed under Agenda Item 12.
- 3.8 *Item 4.18 (Australia to obtain legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor on a suitable process for including signatures on the Statutes. Fiji and PNG to sign the Statutes. Chair to forward Statutes to United States for signature).*
Action completed. Written legal advice was received before the conclusion of the 5th SWPHC meeting and copies provided to Members. Accordingly Fiji and Papua New Guinea signed on a copy of the existing Statutes. Rear Admiral Barbor confirmed that United States had signed the Statutes and forwarded it to the IHB. Australia handed over to the IHB the documents, which had the original signatures of the rest of the Members. These would be kept at the IHB, Monaco.
- 3.9 *Item 4.18 (Chair to extend invitation to non-IHO Members in the region to become Associate Members of the SWPHC).*
Action completed. CAPT Kafer reported that in October 2003 he had written to various nations in the SW Pacific, i.e. Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. There was only one response received – Niue which sought clarification

on requirements, procedures, and financial implications. Mr Maharaj confirmed that he provided this information to Niue, but there had been no further response from that nation. The meeting encouraged the observers at the meeting (Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) to become Associate Members and benefit by participating in the work carried out by Commission.

- 3.10 *Item 6.2.2 (Fiji to provide Australia with copy of the White paper and supporting background brief regarding the transfer of the FHS back to Defence. Australia to correspond (through Australian Defence Department) with appropriate departments in Fiji seeking consideration of transfer of the FHS to Fiji Defence Department).*

CAPT Kafer stated that in September 2004, following receipt of the documentation from Fiji, the Australian Hydrographic Service wrote to the Director of Naval International Relations (Australian Defence Department) seeking guidance on the best way to pursue this matter. The International Policy Division was currently reviewing it for the way ahead, and CAPT Kafer undertook to inform Fiji and the IHB once formal guidance is received.

Action (Australia) : **To advise Fiji and the IHB once formal guidance is received from the Australian defence Department regarding issue of lobbying for the Fiji Hydrographic Service to be transferred to Fiji Defence Department.**

- 3.11 *Item 6.5.3 (PNG to provide Member States with copy of the Asian Development Bank Project report).*

Action completed. PNG had provided delegates at the last meeting with copies of the Project Report.

- 3.12 *Item 8.1.1 (All Member States to provide Australia with updated national entries for M-11).*
Discussed under Agenda Item 6.

- 3.13 *Item 8.2.1 (All Member States to provide Australia with comments on the proposed charting changes in the Australian area in the INT Chart Scheme. Subject to favorable comment, Australia to forward the proposal for changes to the IHB).*

Action completed. Member States had indicated full agreement with the Australian proposal. Australia had subsequently informed the IHB to reflect the changes in M-11.

- 3.14 *Item 8.3.1 (Australia to assess the feasibility of amending the limits of Chart INT 622 and advise the PNG Hydrographer accordingly)*

Australia stated that it was awaiting further advice from the PNG Hydrographer regarding the revised gazetted maritime boundaries. PNG informed that the Commonwealth Secretariat would be conducting a workshop in Port Moresby on 29 November – 3 December 2004 to review maritime boundaries. PNG stated that it would provide Australia with a copy of the Workshop Report. Australia also requested for PNG advice on the plan (time frame) for developing its maritime limits, as this will assist in deciding when INT 622 could be updated to incorporate the maritime boundaries.

Action (PNG): **To provide Australia with copy of report of the Commonwealth Secretariat Workshop to review maritime boundaries, and also advise on plan (time frame) for developing its maritime limits.**

- 3.15 *Item 9.3 (Australia to liaise with all Member States, and obtain guidance on their current charting limits. Based on the feedback, Australia to assess gaps and deficiencies in charting in the SW Pacific Region. Australia to prepare a report on chart deficiency and forward it to the IHB).*

Australia stated that New Zealand and the United Kingdom had provided the relevant information, and it was awaiting advice from France and the United States of America. The meeting discussed the chart which had been prepared depicting the information in respect of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (see **Annex 4**). It was noted there were areas

where there are gaps between coverage of the three charting nations. In order to make an accurate assessment it would be necessary to include information from France and the United States of America. The meeting decided that upon receipt of this information Australia would prepare a report on gaps in large scale chart coverage in the SW Pacific and forward it to the IHB. The report is to make recommendation on how gaps can be closed, or nations affected to consider whether large-scale charts of such areas are required.

Action (France and USA): To provide Australia with information on their current charting limits in the SW Pacific region.

Action (Australia): Upon receipt of information from France and USA prepare a report on gaps in large-scale chart coverage in the SW Pacific and forward it to the IHB. The report is to make recommendation on how gaps can be closed, or nations affected to consider whether large-scale charts of such areas are required.

3.16 *Item 10.4 (All Member States to respond to IHO CL 23/2003 by deadline of 15 May 2003).*
Action completed.

3.17 *Item 13.2 (Australia to include the training aspect when making the submission re consideration for transfer of the FHS to Fiji Defence Department)*
Action will be determined by response to correspondence referred to in item 3.10 above.

3.18 *Item 14.8 (To liaise with AMSA and examine what process is in place regarding the level of (navigational warnings) information received in the SW Pacific, and investigate whether it is necessary to carry out a study tour in the region).*
Australia informed that Mr Lynn Walton, representative from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (NAVREA X coordinator) would brief delegates on this issue during the SWPHC Technical Workshop on 10 November 2004.

3.19 *Item 15.6 (Australia to summarise the outcomes of discussions for tabling at the next SPWG meeting in May 2003. This summary will be circulated to Member States for consideration and comment, prior to tabling).*
Action completed. The discussions (at the last SWPHC meeting) on the developments of the new IHO Convention and organisation were summarised and forwarded to Members. Based on the feedback received, the SWPHC position was tabled at SPWG meeting held in Lima, Peru in May 2003.

4 Exchange of information through National Reports

4.1 Australia (Annex 5)

Australia reported on the activities of the Australian Hydrographic Service covering the period since the last SWPHC meeting. The hydrographic surveys operations concentrated in the north and north-east region - Arnhem Land, Torres Strait, the Inner Barrier Reef, Papua New Guinea, with some work carried out in the south (Bass Strait). The Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) aircraft also undertook Rapid Environment Assessment (REA) taskings in support of military operations and to develop Military Geospatial Information (MGI). The Hydrographic Office Deployable Survey Unit (HODSU) which was deployed to the Solomon Islands in late 2003, in support of the Regional Assistance Mission, undertook a number of surveys in support of maritime operations. Thirty-one New Chart and New Editions were produced over the last financial year. The Digital Hydrographic Data Base (DHDB) was installed recently, and testing and trialling of the system was currently being undertaken. The Australian Seafarers Handbook, scheduled to be published in December 2004, focuses primarily on the complexity of legislation and other issues that a mariner in Australian waters ought to be familiar with. During 2003 and

2004 two officers and one sailor from New Zealand, and one officer from the Philippines attended the H2 Hydrographic Surveying Course at the RAN Hydrographic School.

4.2 Fiji

4.2.1 The Fiji Hydrographic Service reported that since the last meeting there had very little progress with respect to hydrographic surveying – mainly due to the unavailability of a suitable support vessel for field surveying activities. Work was also progressing on compilation of a new chart (F5) of Nadir Waters, an important tourist area on the north east coast. The Senior Cartographer had resigned earlier in 2004. There were currently three Cartographers, two of which were undergoing training courses at the University of South Pacific in Suva.

4.3 France (Annex 6A and 6B)

4.3.1 France provided a brief on its activities since the last meeting. Two new Hydrographic-Oceanographic survey ships had been commissioned over the two years... 'BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRÉ', a 3000-ton vessel and 80 m long, came into service in February 2003. It has two crews of 28 people, providing 300 days of operation per annum. 'POURQUOI PAS', a 5000-ton vessel, will be launched in 2005 and have 150 days of operations per annum. There is a possibility that these ships will carry out survey work in the SW Pacific area at some stage.

4.3.2 The Meeting noted with interest the paper provided by France on use of satellite imagery in South Pacific (June 2004 issue of HYDRO INTERNATIONAL). The use of satellite images in areas of clear water provides an efficient and relatively inexpensive method of checking on an isolated item of information, optimising the work of survey missions, completing a partial survey or updating an old document. Such information is useful in huge areas where the data is scarce and expensive to collect.

4.4 New Zealand (Annex 7)

4.4.1 New Zealand (NZ) briefed the meeting on the over-arching issues relating to the activities of National Topographic/Hydrographic Authority within Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). The way topographic maps and hydrographic charts were produced in the past no longer meets the needs of the new Government Geospatial Strategy (to be delivered to the Cabinet in March 2005). LINZ is responding to these initiatives through a number of activities as outlined in the NZ national report

4.5 Papua New Guinea (Annex 8)

4.5.1 Papua New Guinea (PNG) provided the meeting with an update on the hydrographic component of the PNG Rehabilitation of the Maritime Navigation Aids System Project. A total of US\$ 7.2 million was allocated for the hydrographic program – with a provision of US\$ 3 million for conducting hydrographic surveys (mainly for ground-truthing) and US\$ 3 million for charting (recompiling 34 charts and digitising all 60 charts). A copy of Hydrographic Program Update Report (April-June 2004) appears as Annex 8.

4.5.2 Australia commented that this was an example of a different model for developing a national hydrographic capability. The initial scope included acquisition of a survey vessel, training of staff, acquisition of cartographic systems and training of cartographic staff. However, in the consultants' assessment is that the project funding is best utilised by bringing the current chart portfolio into a digital form. The hydrographic department would consist of the Hydrographer (plus one staff), and would be who would essentially be a contract manager. Therefore instead of aiming to be a quasi-dependent hydrographic authority, under the current model PNG would still continue to be heavily reliant on Australia for its surveying and charting work. The Project is mid-way through its 5-year term and there is considerable work to be done before it comes to fruition.

- 4.5.3 The IHB (CAPT Barritt) commented that the PNG seemed to be taking a realistic approach to capacity building, as it is not essential in all cases for a nation to establish a comprehensive and independent hydrographic capability. The PNG model remains quite challenging in terms of recruiting and ensuring sustainability of a 2-3 personnel organisation in a small country, and ensuring proper supervision of work carried out by contractors.
- 4.5.4 New Zealand and Fiji stated that substantial funds are allocated to projects aimed at capacity building. In order to derive the maximum benefit it is essential that the appropriate people who have the relevant expertise are involved/aware at the outset of the projects.
- 4.5.5 The Meeting agreed that there were a number of lessons learnt from the PNG Nav aids Project, and requested Australia to brief the IHO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) meeting on 11-12 November regarding this matter.

Action (Australia): To provide the lessons learnt from the PNG Nav aids Project to the IHO Capacity for its deliberation.

4.6 United Kingdom (Annex 9)

- 4.6.1 United Kingdom provided a brief on the activities of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO). It was noted that the UKHO concentrated primarily on the production of nautical products. The UKHO activities in the SW Pacific region are highlighted in the national report, providing details of operations related to GMDSS and MSI, charting and training.

4.7 United States of America (Annex 10)

- 4.7.1 A report submitted to the meeting by the Office of Coast Survey, NOAA National Ocean Survey, USA appears as Annex 11.

4.8 International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)

- 4.8.1 Rear Admiral Barbor reported that the IHB Directing Committee had begun implementing the Work Programme (related to the IHO Strategic Plan) and outlined the main activities being carried out.

5 Reports from other regional agencies and observers

5.1 Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

- 5.1.1 SPC stated that the Pacific Regional Transport Study Working Group Report had been released recently. One of the recommendations was to carry out further investigation into the possibility of the South Pacific Forum Members to establish a Expert Committee to carry out a Cost and Benefits study of setting up a regional hydrographic service. The meeting requested SPC to provide the SWPHC with a copy of the Working Group's Report.

Action (SPC): Provide to the SWPHC copy of the Pacific Regional Transport Study Working Group Report, which has a recommendation re initiating a regional hydrographic service.

- 5.1.2 The meeting discussed the need to raise awareness of the importance/benefits of hydrography at higher levels. It was decided that the IHB and SWPHC would formulate a plan to conduct such visits (at ministerial level) to the island countries in the region regarding this, and also making them aware of the importance of SOLAS Chapter V (9) which refers to the obligation of a coastal

state to provide hydrographic services. Appropriate guidance would be sought from the IHO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) in regard to this.

Action (IHB/SWPHC): Formulate a plan to conduct visits (at ministerial level) to the island countries in the SW Pacific, making them aware of the importance/benefits of hydrography, obligations under SOLAS Chapter V (9), etc., seeking guidance as appropriate from the IHO CBC.

5.2 South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

5.2.1 SOPAC informed that it carried out seabed mapping in the region, i.e. surveys for resources, coastal engineering, aqua-cultural projects, etc. It had been using multibeam systems over the past five years. During the last year surveys of deep water were carried out around Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu. The bathymetry data is deposited with the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry.

5.2.2 Discussion also dwelt on developing common standards for the metadata, ensuring that these fit within international standards. It was noted that HYPAC tools were being used by SOPAC and the Fiji Hydrographic Service. New Zealand undertook to compile a list of metadata standards (of 15 elements) for circulation among a Working Group (Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, UK, and SOPAC), and subsequent consideration at the next meeting.

Action (New Zealand): Compile standards for metadata for circulation among Working Group (New Zealand, Australia, France, Fiji, UK, SOPAC), and for consideration at next SWPHC meeting.

5.2.3 The meeting considered it would be useful if hydrographic authorities in the region are made aware of the various projects planned by SOPAC. This would enable hydrographic and navigation safety aspects to be considered whenever marine projects are to be carried out, thus enabling the hydrographic data collected to be used for updating charts. SOPAC was requested to provide SWPHC secretariat with its Work Programmes for dissemination to SWPHC members.

Action (SOPAC): Provide SWPHC secretariat with its Work Programmes for dissemination to SWPHC members.

5.3 Vanuatu

5.3.1 Vanuatu stated that its Hydrographic Unit was established in 1985, with the assistance of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) under the Australian Defence Co-operation Programme. The RAN provided assistance for a period of 5 years. Currently the Unit does not carry out any hydrographic survey work - as the survey platform (vessel) had been sold – and only did sale of charts. Vanuatu expressed its keenness in becoming an associate member of the SWPHC.

5.4 Solomon Islands

5.4.1 Solomon Islands Hydrographic Unit was established in 1980, with the assistance of the RAN under the Australian Defence Co-operation Programme. The RAN continued providing support until 1987. The last hydrographic survey was carried out in 1998 – when the survey equipment broke down. The Unit had produced 6 nautical charts. The Solomon Islands has a vast expanse of maritime area, 97 % compared to 3% land area.

5.5 Samoa

- 5.5.1 Hydrographic work in Samoa was carried out by the Land and Survey Division. Information regarding chart correction was sent to Land Information New Zealand for appropriate action.

6. Review status of the INT Chart Scheme for Region L

- 6.1 Copies of the extract of M-11 (Catalogue of INT Charts) corresponding to INT Charting Region L, as updated by the IHB in September 2004, were distributed to Member States through SWPHC Letter 3/2004. The meeting reviewed the information and requested Member States to provide the co-ordinator (Australia) with any updates and suggested changes to their respective charts listed therein.

- 6.1.1 United Kingdom requested Australia (co-ordinator for Region L) to ask the United States of America regarding its intention with respect to the production of INT charts 626 and 652. It added that the UK was willing to produce these charts subject to the consent by United States.

Action (Australia): To contact United States of America regarding information about INT 626 and INT 652 production.

- 6.1.2 United Kingdom (UK) had proposed a list of their Admiralty charts for inclusion in the large Scale INT Scheme for Region L – covering areas in Solomon and Santa Cruz, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, and Pitcairn. Australia requested UK to provide the relevant entries for inclusion in M-11.

Action (United Kingdom): To provide entries for inclusion in M-11 regarding its Large Scale INT charts in Region L.

- 6.1.3 France would provide the relevant entries for inclusion in M-11 regarding INT 6899.

Action (France): To provide entries for inclusion in M-11 regarding INT 6899.

7. Regional co-operation in surveying and chart production

- 7.1 CAPT Barritt stated that the S-55 is targeted at the strategic level, i.e. providing an overview, and it would be useful to have a (database) layer below it which is more regional. In the first instance the IHO Yearbook should contain a full inventory of personnel and equipment available in each area. He suggested that a regional inventory for the SWPHC be established to include the following:

- (i) GMDSS – as there is a prominent need for this to be implemented in the region;
- (ii) Capability to perform surveys in ports;
- (iii) Requirement for surveys in exposed waters.

- 7.2 Fiji indicated that a problem it currently faced was intrusion into its EEZ (illegal fishing, contraband goods, etc). The United Kingdom undertook to depict the maritime limits on the 4 new metric charts of Fiji. Furthermore data provided by Australia had enabled the UK to update its charts of the Solomon Islands. The UK had also plans to metricate the Kiribati charts, i.e. rationalise the current 15 Admiralty charts to about 7 or 8 metric charts over the next two or three years.

8. Progress with the production and distribution of ENC's

- 8.1 IHO WEND letter 2/2003 had requested the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to provide a small-scale ENC schema for their regions with assignment of Producer Hydrographic Offices. The UK and Australia briefed the meeting on their respective proposed schemes

addressing this issue. Members decided to consider the Australian proposal, taking into account the ENC schemes prepared by other RHCs. France and UK agreed to review the Australian proposal and provide feedback.

Action (France and UK): To review Australian proposal regarding small-scale ENC Chart production for Region L and provide feedback.

9. Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and SOPAC

9.1 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IHO and SOPAC was signed on 9 November 2005. Its main purpose was to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the IHO and SOPAC to ensure the efficient and effective use of hydrographic data collected by the two organisations or their members. A copy of the MoU appears as **Annex 11**.

10. IHO Special Publication N° 55 (Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide – Third Edition)

10.1 CAPT Barritt provided a presentation regarding the revision and re-issue of publication S-55. Its main purpose was to serve as kind of a 'strategic level book', i.e. providing strategic data for national and international policy makers and resource controllers. In 2003 the IHB had circulated a questionnaire to all littoral states in consultation with the IMO and ICS (IHO CL 41/2003). Responses had been received from 80% of the nations.

10.2 The S- 55 database was now available on the IHO web-site, with a facility to enable nations to submit updated information at any time. It provided a powerful tool for the RHC Chairmen to use to review opportunities and priorities for co-operation to improve hydrographic services along the routes in their region. The IHB will issue a Circular Letter each year as a reminder of the importance of updating the S-55 entries. Regional Hydrographic Commissions will also review the content of S-55 at each meeting and continue their efforts to build up a more detailed picture of the status of hydrographic services in their region. Considering the importance of providing such updated information, the meeting decided that all nations in the SW Pacific review their respective national data in the S-55 database and put in place a systematic process for regular update. Furthermore the (data input) Questionnaire on the database should be used as the framework for analysis leading to a prioritised national survey plan.

Actions (All Members, Associate Members and Observers):

- (1) To review their respective national data in the S-55 database and put in place a systematic process for regular update.**
- (2) To use the S-55 Questionnaire database as the framework for analysis leading to a prioritised national survey plan.**

11. Training and Technical Assistance

11.1 The IHB stated that it was very much committed to training and technical assistance in the SW Pacific region. CAPT Barritt gave a presentation on the use of S-55 data for the IHO CBC's work. The meeting decided that it was important for each country in the region to complete Section 4 of S-55, i.e. identify training needs and bids for regional/national projects. Furthermore the SWPHC should include in its Standing Agenda Item on S-55, a gap analysis and assessment of proposals to be forwarded to the IHO Capacity Building Committee.

Action (All Members, Associate Members and Observers):

To complete section 4 of the S-55 Questionnaire (National priorities for international and/or regional co-operation or assistance).

Action (Chair): To include in (SWPHC Meeting) Standing Agenda Item on S-55, a gap analysis and assessment of proposals to be forwarded to the IHO Capacity Building Committee.

- 11.2 The training and technical assistance issues were discussed at greater detail at the SWPHC Technical Workshop on 10 November 2005.

12. IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (IHO SPWG)

- 12.1 Australia (the SWPHC representative on the IHO SPWG) briefed the meeting on the work carried out by SPWG since the International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) in 2002. The IHC had directed the SPWG to review the IHO Convention, its organisation, its management and derive a better way of doing business, i.e. develop a new model to take the IHO into the future. The Working Group had met regularly since then to progress the initiative. The most recent meeting, i.e. 5th Meeting of the SPWG, was held in Tokyo in March 2004 and attended by 60 delegates from 30 Member States, and held final deliberations over the IHO Basic Documents, the Convention, the new processes of level of management within the organization. An Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference will be held in Monaco in April 2005, when all IHO Member States will be asked to vote on the various proposals from the SPWG.

- 12.2 The agreed that Australia should continue representing the SWPHC on the IHO SPWG.

Action (Australia): Australia to continue representing SWPHC on the IHO SPWG.

13 Summary of Actions

- 13.1 A List of the Actions resulting from the 6th Meeting of the SWPHC appears as **Annex 12**.

14 Date and Venue of Next Conference

- 14.1 New Zealand agreed to host the next SWPHC Conference in November 2005, linked to the IHO Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA) meeting proposed to be held in NZ at that time. The dates would be finalised after consultation with the IHB.

Action (New Zealand): To liaise with IHB re timing for the 7th SWPHC Conference (to be linked with the IHO HCA meeting in New Zealand in 2005).

- 14.2 Australia volunteered to hold the Vice-Chair of the SWPHC until the next meeting.

15. Closing Remarks

- 15.1 Mr Maharaj thanked all delegates for their participation and useful contribution to discussions over the two days. The meeting had been beneficial, particularly to those Member States which do not have a regular opportunity to get together and discuss the various issues pertaining to hydrography.
