



DECEMBER BULLETIN

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COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

24th GEBCO GUIDING COMMITTEE (GGC) MEETING

IOC Offices, Paris, 7-8 November 2007.

The 24th meeting of the GGC was held at the offices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), in Paris, from 7 to 8 November 2007. All members of the GGC and Bob WHITMARSH (Permanent Secretary) were present. Also present were the following observers: Bob ANDERSON, Shin TANI, Juan BROWN, Dimitri TRAVIN (IOC) and Captain GORZIGLIA and Steve SHIPMAN (IHB).

The GGC considered reports submitted by its two sub-committees, the Sub-Committee on Digital Bathymetry (SCDB) and Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). Dr. FALCONER, Vice Chairman, reported on the status of the Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Training Project and noted that the Nippon Foundation had indicated that they would be considering providing funding for a 5th year of training (IHB CL 116/07 refers). He reported that by late 2008 the project will have trained 24 students from 16 countries.

The GGC considered the request from the IHB for it to review those IHO Technical Resolutions relevant to Ocean Mapping and agreed to provide a revised text by the end of 2007 for the IHB to circulate to Member States for approval.

The GGC reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for itself and the two sub-committees as requested by the XVIIth IHC. The GGC agreed on most of the amendments needed to ensure the consistency requested by the IHC and informed the IHB and IOC representatives that a final text for circulation to IHO Member States and consideration by the IOC Executive Council would be forwarded to the IHB shortly. The final text has since been circulated to IHO MS with IHB CL 111/07.

Other issues discussed were: Outreach; GEBCO finances and publications and regional mapping projects.

The next meeting of the GGC is planned in May 2008 in Japan and the following in Brest, France in September 2009. The full meeting report will be available on the GEBCO web site www.gebco.net soon.

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA
7th Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3-5 October 2007

The 7th meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) was hosted by the *Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN)* of Argentina and took place at the *Centro Naval* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 3-5 October 2007. Fourteen IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Norway, Peru, UK and USA) were represented, as well as three international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO and SCAR). Capt. Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting. Captain Rod NAIRN (Australia) was confirmed as Vice Chairman.

The Commission welcomed the USA as a new HCA member, thus bringing to 18 the current number of HCA members, and was pleased to hear of Peru's intention to soon sign the HCA Statutes. Those IHO Member States who are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, but not members of HCA, were invited to consider joining the Commission and actively contribute to its work, i.e. Japan, Rep. of Korea, Poland, Ukraine and Uruguay. Noting the continued increase in sea-borne traffic in the region, the Commission considered measures to increase awareness of the importance of providing hydrographic services in Antarctica. In particular, the Commission reviewed the programme of an HCA seminar on Hydrography in Antarctica to be held as part of the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, in June 2008.

The Commission discussed proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes to comply with the new IHO structure. The following two options were considered: 1) HCA Chairperson from a Member State and supported by the IHO Secretariat; and 2) HCA Chairperson from the IHO Secretariat. There was overwhelming support for the second option. The Commission also agreed on a proposed amendment to Article 8(e) of the revised IHO General Regulations to accommodate the particular case of HCA, i.e. no coastal States exist within the region and while HCA members must be IHO Member States, they must also have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and are contributing resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart coverage of the region.

A progress report was given on the development of an HCA Geographic Information System, which will eventually provide metadata on INT chart, ENC and RNC coverage, as well as on past and planned hydrographic surveys (see www.iho.org > *Reg Hyd Comm* > *HCA* > *Miscellaneous* > *GIS for Antarctica*).

A detailed assessment was made of the progress with expanded coverage of INT charts and ENCs. The status of INT charts in progress or not published for the region, as well as that of ENC scheming and production were reviewed. The need for additional volunteer producer nations to accelerate INT chart coverage in the area, in particular for those charts for which no producer nation has been identified, was stressed. Presentation of the national reports also enabled the Commission to review and update its agreed and prioritized survey plan for Antarctica.

The 8th HCA meeting will be hosted by the Brazilian HO in Rio de Janeiro in early October 2008.



The participants of Meeting.

IHB VISITS

IHB VISIT TO SURINAME

5 - 6 December 2007

The IHB Director, whose area of responsibility covers the activities of the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), has had several discussions with representatives from Suriname attending MACHC meetings and technical events. On each occasion the IHB Director expressed the Organization's concern regarding the suspended membership status of Suriname since 1991 and the limited hydrographic development within this maritime country.

At the last MACHC meeting, the Maritime Authority Suriname (MAS) invited the IHB to make a technical visit to Suriname in December 2007, with the following objectives:

- a) A visit to the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism;
- b) A visit to Ministry of Public Works;
- c) A decision on outstanding contributions and
- d) A discussion on capacity building - hydrography within MAS.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, undertook this technical visit on 5th and 6th December. On the first day MAS gave presentations on their role, organization, capabilities and shortcomings when facing challenging new projects. On the IHO side, a complete presentation was given on the importance of Hydrography and the main tasks the IHO undertakes at the international level, with emphasis on the hydrographic services defined in SOLAS V, Regulation 9. This was accompanied by a detailed presentation on the capacity building effort the Organization is pursuing in order to help Member States to meet their obligations. Discussions continued during a visit to the premises and a visit to the MAS vessel M.V. MARWINA, used to conduct hydrographic surveys. A short trip was made on the vessel where the importance of keeping the river traffic lane well surveyed at all times was emphasized, due to the siltation processes.

The following day the discussions continued and several initiatives were identified to improve the present shortage of human and technological resources within the hydrographic unit in MAS. A presentation was made to the Ministry of Transport and the Minister, Mrs. Richel APINSA, expressed great interest in the presentations made and acknowledged the vulnerability of maritime transport due to the conditions of the river, mainly the river mouth, as all terminals are located on the river, and the evident role hydrography would have in the decision-making process. She decided to take this issue to the Cabinet of Ministries for discussion and requested the Chair of MAS to prepare a complete presentation for the Cabinet.

Finally Captain GORZIGLIA visited the University of Suriname, where discussions were held as to the potential advice IHO could offer in case the University decided to run a program including hydrographic matters.

This visit was very brief, but at the same time very positive in the sense that there was a change in Suriname's attitude towards improving the national priority given to hydrography. This might well result in a prompt re-establishment of Suriname's rights and prerogatives within the Organization in conjunction with an active participation in IHO's activities.



*Mrs Naomi EERSEL, M.Sc. - Manager Nautical Affairs of MAS;
Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director and
Mr. Robert CHIN-Fo-SIEEUV, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of MAS,
on board M.V. MARWINA*

HYDROGRAPHERS

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HYDROGRAPHER OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE OF THE CHILEAN NAVY (SHOA)

December 2007



Captain Cristian SORO KORN was born on 8 January 1958 in Santiago, Chile, and, after studying at the German School, the Pre-Military Institute, the Application and Lastarria Secondary Schools in Santiago, he joined the Naval Academy "Arturo Prat" in 1974. He graduated in December 1978 with the rank of Ensign.

He is a Staff Officer specialized in navigation and hydrography. He is a qualified Military Armaments Engineer (Navigation) – and a qualified Hydrographic Engineer. He also successfully completed the High Level Course of Defence at the University of Defence of the Popular Liberation Army of China and a course in High Command at the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies of Chile.

For more than thirteen years he served on board various vessels such as: the Patrol boat "Lautaro", the Missile launch "Casma", the Destroyer "Portales", the Training Ship "Esmeralda", the

Transporter "Aguiles" and the Tanker "Araucano", and was Commander of the Medical Support Launch "Guale", the High Seas Tug "Galvarino" and the Oceanographic Ship "Vidal Gormaz". He has participated in various hydrographic operations, as well as piloting on board foreign vessels in the austral channels and in the Antarctic territory.

Amongst his postings ashore, in addition to the various courses, we should also mention the following posts : Head of Studies at the Naval School "Arturo Prat", Head of the Center of Tactical Training of the Navy, Head of the Planning Department of the Naval Operations Command, Head of the Command Staff of the 4th Naval Zone and Deputy Manager of the Navy.

On 17 December 2007 he took up the post of Director of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Office of the Chilean Navy.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF INDONESIAN ENCs

Jakarta, Indonesia, 11 December 2007



*The Hydrographer of Indonesia
Rear Admiral Willem RAMPANGILEI*

ENCs of 18 international ports and three ENCs covering key archipelagic sea lanes through Indonesian waters have been created in just six months by Jawatan Hidro-oseanografi (JANHIDROS), the national hydrographic office of Indonesia. This is the first part of an accelerated ENC production programme that aims to see Indonesia achieve full ENC coverage by 2009 .

The Hydrographer of Indonesia, Rear Admiral Willem RAMPANGILEI, hosted an opening ceremony onboard the Indonesian survey ship *Leuser* in the presence of over 100 guests and a large media contingent. A short sea cruise provided the opportunity to see the ENCs in use. The guest of honour at the ceremony was His Excellency H. HARIJOGI, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transportation. Mr Parry OEI, Hydrographer of Singapore, represented the East Asia Hydrographic Commission. Captain Robert WARD represented the IHB.

This launch of Indonesia's ENCs covers the most important trade routes and ports in Indonesia and marks a steadily increasing level of hydrographic activity and cooperation that is taking place in the East Asia region. There is now complete ENC coverage from Japan and Korea, through the Indonesian Archipelago to the East Coast of Australia.

JANHIDROS is an active member of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission, where regional hydrographic interests and capabilities are regularly coordinated to the benefit of all the participants. JANHIDROS is also deeply involved in the IMO / World Bank project to establish the world's first *Marine Electronic Highway* in the Malacca Strait and Singapore Strait.