

FINAL REPORTVITH MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON
THE STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS

(Slidrecht, The Netherlands, 1-4 March 1983)

Attendance

The Vith Meeting of the FIG/IHO International Advisory Board on the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors was held at the Office of Osiris-Cesco, within the Head Office of Royal Boskalis Westminster, at Slidrecht, The Netherlands, 1-4 March 1983. The following members were present:

Mr B.T. AYINDE, FIG (Nigeria)
Lt. Cdr. A.E. INGHAM, RN. (Retd.), FIG (U.K.)
Ing. Général J. BOURGOIN, FIG (France)
Lt. Cdr. C. DON, R.Nl.N. (Retd.) FIG (Netherlands)
Mr Adam J. KERR, CHS, IHO (Canada)
Cdr. L.L. de OLIVEIRA, BN, IHO (Brazil)
Lt. Cdr. D. SENGUPTA, IN, IHO (India) in place of Cdr. V.S. SAPTHARISHI
Cdr. N.N. SATHAYE, IHB (Secretary of the Board).

Vice Admiral O.A.A. AFFONSO, Director of the IHB and Mr J.C. RIEMERSMA, Vice Chairman of FIG Commission IV (Hydrography) attended as Observers for the IHO and FIG respectively; the latter attended only for one day. RADM J.C. KREFFER, the Hydrographer of the Netherlands, attended the opening of the Meeting.

Also in attendance were Captain J.C. MORETON, the Hydrographer of Spain, Cdr. Carlos D. SOUTO, P.N. and Lt. Cdr. G. MILLS who represented the Hydrographic Schools of Spanish Navy and Portuguese Navy and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, California, respectively.

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received apologies from Mr T. UCHINO, IHO (Japan) for his inability to attend the meeting.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr J. Th. MEYERS, Member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Boskalis Westminster Group NV gave a welcoming address to the participants and wished them a successful and fruitful meeting. He said the RBW Group was very interested in the training of hydrographers and consequently was very happy to host the meeting. Mr H.J.M. MOSCH, Associate Director of Osiris-Cesco bv, also welcomed the participants on behalf of his company and wished them a pleasant stay in Holland and a successful meeting. VADM AFFONSO of the IHB, speaking on behalf of the Board, thanked the Royal Boskalis Westminster Group and Osiris-Cesco for their kind welcome addresses and for their excellent arrangements for the meeting.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Lt. Cdr. C. DON (Royal Netherlands Navy) Retd. explained the programme drawn up for the meeting which included a presentation of a film and a lecture on Oosterschelde Stormvloedkering.

3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

In the absence of an elected Chairman, the meeting agreed that Lt. Cdr. C. DON preside over the meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Provisional Agenda was adopted with some alteration in the order of items taken up for discussion.

5. REVIEW OF COURSE SUBMISSIONS

(1) The course submission received from 'Ecole des Hydrographes' of SHOM, France in respect of the training of petty officers of the French Naval Hydrographic Service, had been reviewed for Category 'B' certificate by the Board at its 5th meeting in Goa in February 1982. The Board had found some differences in the syllabi as compared to the "Standards" and the Chairman had addressed the NFP of France on these differences. Since then, SHOM had modified the syllabi to conform with the "Standards" and had so informed the Board. The Board therefore decided to award the said course syllabi a Category 'B' certificate.

(2) The syllabus of the final examination of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors had been reviewed at the 5th Meeting of the Board in Goa and the NFP (U.K.) had been requested to seek clarification from the RICS on some inadequacies found in the syllabus. The RICS clarification was received only a week before the meeting, and did not address itself fully on points raised by the Board. The board therefore decided to seek further clarification from the RICS through NFP (U.K.).

(3) "Officers Specialises," a syllabus submitted by the Instituto Hidrografico de la Marina, Spain, had been originally submitted for recognition as a Category 'B' course but later had been revised and submitted for recognition as a Category 'A' course.

Although the general level of the course was found to be high, it was impossible to review the syllabus for Category 'A' certification. The Hydrographer of Spain was therefore asked to resubmit the syllabi with appropriate modifications to all Board members for their evaluation.

(4) and (5) The syllabi for the specialization course in Hydrography of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic School of the Portuguese Navy and the Graduate Education in Hydrographic Sciences program resubmitted by the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California, U.S.A. were both reviewed (the former for the first time and the latter for the second time) for recognition as Category 'A' Courses.

In respect of these two submissions the Board found some differences in their syllabi as compared with the "Standards". The Board will bring these to the notice of the concerned NFPs, and, on receiving satisfactory confirmation on all points, will award a Category 'A' certificate of recognition.

6. AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDS

A number of amendments were made to the syllabi appearing in the "Standards" in order to keep abreast of changes and to reflect certain items which could be considered as pre-requisite for admission to a training programme. These amendments appear in Annex (II).

7. ROLE OF THE BOARD IN INITIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Vice Admiral Orlando A.A. AFFONSO informed the Board that the Bureau was recompiling its special publication No. 47 to list therein both training courses and associated technical assistance available in Hydrographic Organizations of IHO Member States. The IHB also plans to publish similar information on training courses available in educational institutions of Member States. The IHB will submit the list of such courses to the Board in order

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 The Board had received a request from the Principal, Stichting Hogere Zeeraartschool Amsterdam, that candidates completing their 4-year course in Hydrography be allowed to use 'AHS' as an affix or a title after their names, thus indicating that they had completed a Category 'A' course.

The Board considered this request and decided to inform the School that, as the Board only recognised course syllabi and did not issue individual certificates, the Board was not competent to give an authoritative ruling in this matter.

8.2 The Board expressed concern at the late submissions of the Syllabi for review. It was therefore decided to inform NFPs that course submissions must be forwarded on or before 1st February 1984, if they are to be considered at the next meeting of the Board in May 1984.

8.3 The Board considered a suggestion by SHOM that there be an exchange of pedagogical publications between organizations/institutions whose training programmes have been recognized by the Board. The Board believed that such an exchange would be of mutual benefit to the institutions and decided that NFPs concerned should be requested to consider the suggestion favourably.

9. ADOPTION OF STATUTES

Mr J.C. RIEMERSMA and the FIG nominees on the Board, with the support of Mr KERR, expressed the view that the composition of the Board would be imbalanced in favour of IHO if the Chairmanship and the Secretaryship were permanently attributed to an IHB Director and a Member of IHB Staff respectively.

The meeting drafted Statutes for the Board which appear in Annex III. These will be presented to FIG and IHO for their approval and will be effective from the date of approval by the two organizations.

The Board resolved that the Chairmanship and Vice-chairmanship of the Board be held alternatively by FIG/IHO nominees, with a further proviso that the Vice Chairman take over as Chairman every 3 years, at which time a new Vice Chairman would be elected.

As the past Chairman had been an IHB Director, the Board members voted for FIG representative Lt. Cdr. C. DON to be the Chairman and for IHO representative Mr A.J. KERR to be the Vice-Chairman for a period of 3 years.

10. VENUE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Board accepted the kind invitation of Ing. Gen. J. BOURGOIN to host the next meeting of the Board in France between 7 and 11 May 1984.