

TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY VISITS TO BANGLADESH BY IHB TEAM UNDER CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

1. Introduction:

Bangladesh Navy Hydrographic Department (BNHD) was formed in 1980 and trying to be an efficient department by applying different professional approaches. Thus, apart from the utilization of own technical know-how, BNHD invites the friendly professional organisations to develop our own capacity. In this aspect, BNHD is highly grateful to French Government for initial boosting-up to bring BNHD into a digital era of hydrographic survey through some technical and technological support by NAVFCO. Besides, other friendly nations like India, UK, Italy, South Korea and organisations like Nippon Foundation, GEBCO, IOC also deserve credit for different professional training. As part of this kind of activities, a technical team from IHB was also invited in the year of 2012 under Capacity Building (CB) program. The main focus of the CB team was to identify shortcomings of BNHD and a suggestion for future requirement.

2. Visit by IHB CB Team:

A team comprising Mr Jeff Bryant and Mr Bob Wilson visited Bangladesh 03 Nov to 07 Nov 2012. During their visit, they have taken keen interest to go everywhere of BNHD including understanding about existing performance of survey equipment, survey planning, deployment of manpower etc and tries to discover organisational prospects and limitations by visiting the following hydrographic ships/ units:

- a. Directorate of Hydrography, Naval Headquarters, Dhaka
- b. BNS ANUSHANDHAN
- c. BNS SHAIBAL
- d. Bangladesh Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Centre (BNHOC)
- e. BN Hydrographic School

They have made call on with concern personnel within the chain of survey operation to find out some viable suggestions in discharging efficient survey output.

3. Outcome of CB Visit and Impact in BHD:

This CB team submitted a very comprehensive report to BNHD with a definite arrangement and strengthen its hydrographic effort to meet-up its current and future challenges related to the professional issues. BNHD took it very spontaneously and grateful to CB team for their relentless efforts. In this aspect the main recommendation of the CB team vis-à-vis steps taken by BNHD are shown below:

Ser	CB Team Suggestion	Remarks
1	Efforts to bring BN's MBES operations to a fully operational state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three MBES of BN are made operational. Locally data acquisitions by MBES are being made. However, still expecting some training on MBES data validation and data management from some experienced hydrographic office.
2	Replacement of EM-1002 system fitted on-board BNS ANUSHANDHAN before the system becomes unsupportable	Very recently EM-1002 MBES is renovated by Kongsberg with an intention of getting service for few more years
3	BN seek the assistance of an experienced hydrographic office to develop a MBES survey data appraisal system at BNHOC and train the staff accordingly.	BNHD has taken up efforts for training personnel on MBES data appraisal as well as development of skilled manpower. In this regard BN already arranged MBES training under bilateral agreement with UKHO.
4	Investigate the provision of BNHOC with data storage and management systems to provide a unified national hydrographic database and obtaining assistance from an experienced hydrographic office.	The initiative has been taken to establish one unified national hydrographic database. However, experience hydrographic office, IHO may assist in this regard.
5	BNHOC, through existing cooperation or bilateral arrangements with other hydrographic offices, request professional assistance to enhance tidal analysis and prediction capability	Efforts are continued to train BNHOC personnel on tidal data analysis and prediction from some experienced hydrographic offices through bilateral agreement. In this regard, IHO assistance is always welcome.
6	The establishment of a dedicated BNHOC website to include charts and publications available, notices to mariners, navigational warnings, details of surveys	It is under active consideration by the authority.

7	Upgrading of Tide tables to a 'Maritime Handbook' including the national List of Lights, Radio Signals	This is under process. It will be made in due course of time.
8	Director Hydrography to considers the Technical Teams comments on the proposed new BNHOC structure	The comment about new structure is actively considered for restructuring of BNHOC
9	Through existing cooperation or bilateral arrangements with other hydrographic offices, seek professional assistance to convert paper chart to ENCs	BNHD has taken up efforts to develop manpower for conversion of paper chart into ENC. Technological assistance is sought from many experienced nations. One week CB training is planned in 2014. However, follow-up training under CB project is also required.
10	BNHOC develop an effective ENC production and maintenance capability	Efforts are continued to train BNHOC personnel for ENC production and maintenance. Efforts being made to receive assistance from capable Hydrographic Offices.
11	BN arrange sending more officers for IHO Cat A hydrography and IHO Cat B cartography courses in recognized institutions.	BNHD is seldom receiving Cat-A Hydrography and Cat-B cartography courses. These are badly required to develop our human resources.

4. **Suggestions for Effective CB Program:**

The efforts made by IHB for capacity building of member nations are praiseworthy. No doubt, it will enhance the professional bondage amongst the nations as well as the weaker nations will be in a good professional footing. However, following points may be considered for effective CB program:

- a. Going into depth for finding out the loopholes of the problems including bureaucratic hurdles.
- b. Identifying absolute shortcomings on professional aspects and steps to the solution.
- c. Full pledged CB support may be given to the concern nation with an intention to bring up to the standard.
- d. A review process may be made to the supported nation after a certain period of time. So that the progress curve and area of weakness can be further sort-out for continuous to the goal and decision may be taken to discontinue for those nations, whose progress are below satisfactory.

5. **Conclusion:**

Normally, it is very difficult for the individual, to find out their own drawbacks, which can be sorted out by other as a guide. In this aspect, the effort taken by IHB under CB program is well appreciated by all, specially to yield for the standard professional output. In this context, BNHD is highly grateful to the IHB for sorting out our shortcomings as well as suggestions for improvement. BNHD is also benefited in getting some package training program for human resources development. I hope, following the recommendations made by the CB team, BNHD will be able to reach the goal of a balanced professional wing on the hydrography.