



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG)**

1. Parties

This document constitutes an agreement between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

2. Background

The IHO and FIG each recognizes that the other is an international organization with many complementary activities serving similar professional constituencies.

IHO is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 70 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardization of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. FIG is a non-governmental organization that collaborates with UN agencies and other international organizations to support progress in all fields and applications of surveying. FIG represents academic, commercial and private surveyors world-wide and specialises in technical and professional areas including hydrography, positioning and measurement, surveying, mapping, engineering surveys, geographic information systems, cadastre and land management together with marine cadastre, land and environmental planning plus the development of coastal zones and property valuation and the management of real estate.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organizations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to a mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:



1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organizations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest.
2. Each organization should inform the other of all Commissions, Working groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate. In FIG the lead role in this co-operation is the responsibility of Commission 4 'Hydrography'.
3. Each organization should inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Both organizations should identify opportunities to organize specialized seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship.
5. Both organizations confirm their commitment in the work of the joint IHO/FIG/International Cartographic Organization (ICA) Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, which will be implemented under the rules adopted for this Advisory Board.
6. Each organization should invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organizations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or FIG proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organizations.

Date: 2003

On behalf of IHO

On behalf of FIG

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President IHB

Univ. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel
President of FIG