

REPORT OF THE XIIIth MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS.

Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, 26-29 March 1990

Location and attendance

The XIIIth meeting of the Advisory Board was held at the offices of the German Hydrographic Institute (DHI), in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, from 26 to 29 March 1990, hosted by the German Hydrographic Society.

The following were present :

Mr. Roger LOTT (Chairman)
Prof. Peter ANDREE, IHO
Cdr. Gerald MILLS, IHO
Prof. Dr. Ing. Sjamsir MIRA, FIG
Mr. Peter ODLING-SMEE, FIG
Mr. Allan YARDLEY, FIG
Cdr. Federico BERMEJO, IHB
(Secretary)

The Board regretted the absence of Mr. Randolph DAVIDSEN (IHO), due to ill health.

Due to the resignation of Capt. Pedro Monteiro FIADEIRO from the Advisory Board, communicated to the Board a few days before the meeting, it was agreed that Cdr. Jose Goncalves CARDOSO could attend the meeting as an observer, replacing Capt. FIADEIRO . Official action will be carried out by the IHO to appoint a new member.

The Chairman introduced Prof. Jack SPAANS, acting as an observer for the Hydrographic Society, who attended the items 9 through 12 included in the Agenda for the last day of the meeting, 29 March.

1. Opening of the meeting

The President of the German Hydrographic Institute (DHI), Dr. Peter EHLERS welcomed the Board and briefly explained the activities of the DHI.

Mr. Roger LOTT took the chair and opened the meeting, making a brief summary of how he intended the meeting to address the subjects included in the Agenda. In view of the largely new Board membership, he also made a short comment on the courses submitted for accreditation.

2. Administrative arrangements

A conference room and administrative facilities were provided by the German Hydrographic Institute. Various social events, prepared by the German Hydrographic Society, the German Hydrographic Institute and Hamburg Port Consulting were presented to the Board by Prof. ANDREE.

On Tuesday 27 March, the members of the Board visited the Hamburg Polytechnic department of Survey Engineering.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed Agenda was unanimously adopted. The Chairman regretted the inability to review the course submitted by Indonesia and tabled by Prof. MIRA at the beginning of the meeting , due to the lack of opportunity for Board Members to have thoroughly considered the papers. The Board agreed to review the course at the next meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairman reported that the minutes of the XIIth meeting of the Board had been approved by Board members by correspondence and had subsequently been accepted by FIG and IHO.

The Chairman noted that Bordeaux Technological University (France) had agreed to adopt into the syllabus of its course for Port Surveyors the suggestions made by the Board. It was agreed that the course be awarded Academic accreditation at Category B level in the specialism in Port and Nearshore Surveys.

5. Individual accreditation

A draft set of guidelines for individual accreditation and several helpful comments from NFP's together with a paper by John Hammer (US) were discussed at length. It was felt that the demand for an internationally recognised individual certification program was modest, yet needed to be addressed. It was noted that the Board itself was not capable of handling such a program because of limited resources and that such work was outside of the current terms of reference of the Board. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for individuals satisfactorily completing a FIG/IHO fully accredited course to be eligible for an n the marin certificate of recognition, but that the judgement regarding satisfactory completion could only be made by the institution running the course. It was also noted that individuals completing a course with academic accreditation may not fully meet the Standards with regard to practical experience, and also that any FIG/IHO scheme based on accredited courses only would not meet demand from practising individuals within industry many of whom were obviously capable of fulfilling the requirements of the Standards. It was agreed :

a) that the Board recommend to its parent organisations that the Standards be amended to allow for FIG/IHO individual certification of those satisfactorily completing accredited courses and demonstrating appropriate practical experience.

b) to recommend that nations establish their own hydrographer certification programs, preferably having requirements no less than those of the Standards.

c) that any other international initiative such as proposed by Hammer would be supported if it were self-funding.

d) that it was desirable that these recommendations be widely circulated.

6. Review of the Course in Hydrography of Hamburg Polytechnics

The Board was assisted in its review of the course by a tour of the department facilities, a well- documented submission and by the presence of Prof. Dr. Delf EGGE. The Board decided to award accreditation at the category A academic level with specialism in Nautical Charting, on receipt of written confirmation that some topics of the Standards not specifically covered be included in the course. The course will also be invited to address topics in the Port and Nearshore syllabus, after which accreditation would be extended to that specialism.

7. Review of the Course in Hydrography for Naval Officers (Chile)

The Board was grateful for the support given by the representatives of the Hydrographic Institute of Chile, Cdr. Hugo GORZIGLIA and Lt. Cdr. Luis SALGADO.

Following the recommendations communicated to the NFP of Chile after the XIIth meeting of the Board, the course had been submitted at Category A level with specialism in Nautical Charting and Port and Nearshore Surveys. However, the Board decided that, unless some items had been enhanced, the course did not completely fulfil the requirements for a Category A level, and that further information was required before accreditation in the Port and Nearshore specialism could be considered. Accordingly, the course was accredited at Full Category B level, with specialism in Nautical Charting.

8. Review of the Course in Hydrography for Naval Officers (Brazil)

Cdr. XAVIER attended the review of the Brazilian course.

The Board was unable to proceed conclusively, due to deficiencies in the documentation. The Brazilian NFP has been invited to re-submit the course, providing full documentation.

9. Review of the Standards of Competence

9.1. Surveying Technicians

The Board reviewed comments made by Cdr. E.R. Whitmore (R A N Rtd.), regarding standards of competence for hydrographic survey technicians. It reaffirmed an earlier view that training for technicians should reflect a high practical content focussed on the requirements of the local environment, and that an international standard therefore was not appropriate. It was felt that more effort should be made to have field personnel trained to category B standards.

9.2 R.I.C.S. Syllabus

The Board discussed the proposal put forward by C.R.D. Keiller, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (U.K.), about the future consideration of the hydrographic surveyor as a specialist in all forms of data gathering in the marine environment.

It was decided that the comments from C R D Keiller will be helpful for the review of the Standards of Competence which will be carried out by the members of the Board following the meeting. A draft on the approach by which the incorporation of this subject into the Standards could be effected in the future will be prepared.

9.3 Review of the Syllabus (5th ed.)

9.3.1. The 5th edition of the Standards was then reviewed by the Board. Several minor amendments were made and it was decided that some items should be redrafted to include the decisions taken earlier in the meeting during consideration of the "Guidelines for individual accreditation" and other related topics.

This task will be carried out by correspondence and will result in the 6th edition of the "Standards of Competence", which will be presented to the parent organizations for approval, as some of the identified topics will produce amendments to the Statutes.

9.3.2 Proposals of Argentina

The suggestions made by the Hydrographic Service of Argentina to amend the syllabus to include more coverage of hydrology and buoyage were considered by the Board. It was decided that the items to which the proposed amendments referred were specialisms engaged in by some but not all hydrographers, and were adequately covered in the Standards which minimum levels of training expected.

10. Review of Bibliography

The Board approved the final draft of the Bibliography. Members will provide the final comments to the draft by 1st May 1990, which will be edited as IHO Publication MP-006 "Reference texts and journals for Training of Hydrographic Surveyors", before the end of the year.

11. Date/Venue of XIVth meeting

Following the invitation of Prof. Dr. Ing. S. MIRA, it was decided that the next meeting will be held in Jakarta or Bandung (Indonesia) in the third week of April 1991. This invitation will be officially confirmed at a later date.

12. Any other business

12.1 Confirmation of accredited courses

The Board decided that courses to which accreditation was awarded more than 10 years ago should, in accordance with the 5th edition of the Standards, be reaffirmed. Subsequently, the courses of SHOM (France) and the Royal Australian Navy, respectively accredited in 1980 and 1981, will be invited to provide the Board with the adequate documentation to review the courses.

12.2 Election of Vice-Chairman

Following the procedures established in the Statutes, Cdr. Gerald MILLS (IHO) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.