

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

Arkö, Stockholm, Sweden, 31 July - 6 August

1. Location and attendance

The XXth Meeting of the FIG/IHO Advisory Board was held at the Swedish Maritime Administration Office on Arkö Island, Norköping, Sweden, from 31 July to 1st August 1997 and at the Stockholm HAMN port facilities in Stockholm, from 2 to 6 August 1997.

The following were present :

Mr. Svante Astermo (FIG) (Vice-Chairman)
Captain Hugo Gorziglia (IHO) (Chairman)
Lt. Cdr. Steve Shipman (IHO)
Rear Admiral K.R. Srinivasan (IHO)
Mr. Tadao Tatsuno (IHO)
Dr. David Wells (FIG)
Mr. Alan Yardley (FIG)
Commander Federico Bermejo (Secretary) (IHB)

The Board regretted the absence of Mr. Razali Bin Ahmad (FIG), due to administrative difficulties.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Hydrographer of Sweden welcomed the participants. The Chairman opened the meeting and introduced the Agenda and Timetable, which were unanimously adopted.

3. Administrative Arrangements

Mr. Svante ASTERMO explained the administrative arrangements and other matters of general interest. Conference room, secretarial and transportation facilities were provided by the host member, with the support of the Maritime Administration and the Authority of the Port of Stockholm. The meeting also received support from Mr. Peter NYHLEN, Director of Land Surveys Kart Centrum (Special Maps Division).

On Tuesday 5 August the Board visited the Royal Institute of Technology, where they were received by the Director of the Centrum för Geoinformatik, Mr. Hans HAUSKA and Professors Lars SJÖBERG and Anders BOBERG.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Chairman introduced this item, reviewing the minutes of the previous meetings and reporting those activities carried out during the intersessional period. A report on the status of various courses from a number of countries was presented to the Board, as well as the 5 Year Report on the Work of the Board, submitted by the Chairman to the XVth I.H. Conference, held in April 1997 in Monaco.

The maintenance of the "List of reference texts and journals for training of Hydrographers" (IHO publication M-6), was carefully considered and it was decided that new information should be gathered through the two following procedures :

1. Requesting institutions submitting courses to provide a comprehensive list of text books available.
2. Collating the works mentioned in recent submissions already received by the Board.

The members of the Board were also requested to provide the Secretary with the necessary information to build up a Table of Hours of Courses recognized.

5. Review of courses

The Board ratified the decision about a necessary period of 10 years for the re-submission of courses.

5.1. 4-Year Course Programme in Hydrography of "Hogere Zeevaartschool", Amsterdam.

After the clarification provided by the person responsible for this course, which had been re-submitted in 1994, the Board decided to award re-recognition to this course at Category A level and the three Specialisms. A letter of congratulations will be sent to the "**Hogere Zeevaartschool**" on this subject.

5.2. Specialization Course of the Italian Hydrographic Institute

The Board decided to award re-recognition to this course at Category A and Specialism in Nautical Charting Surveys upon receiving additional satisfactory information on some topics apparently insufficiently covered by the Course Programme.

5.3. Course in Hydrography for Petty Officers of the Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy.

The Board awarded recognition to this course at Category B level and Specialism in Nautical Charting Surveys

5.4. Course in Hydrography of the "Admiral Makarov Maritime State Academy", Russia.

The Board reviewed the above course and decided to award recognition at Category A level and Specialisms in Nautical Charting Surveys and Surveys for Coastal Zone Management, upon written evidence that some missing items are covered or will be in the future. The Board also decided to inform the Academy Admiral Makarov that further clarification on items pertaining to Specialism 3 should be provided for future recognition of this specialism.

5.5 Hydrographic Course of the Japanese Maritime Safety School of Japan

The Board awarded re-recognition at Category B and Specialism in Nautical Charting Surveys to this course upon written evidence about some items apparently not covered by the programme.

5.6. Basic/Long Hydrographic Specialist Course of the Indian Naval Hydrographic School, Goa,

This course had been recognized at Category A and Specialisms in Nautical Charting Surveys and Surveys for Coastal Zone Management at the XVIIIth meeting of the Board in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The N.H.S. of Goa had been then encouraged to improve the syllabus with the necessary material to claim also recognition at Specialism in Industrial Offshore Surveying. The re-submission now considered was therefore made requesting recognition in this Specialism.

The Board decided, upon written confirmation about some details on entry requirements for civilians, to award recognition also in this Specialism and to list the course as a new one, at Category A and all the 3 Specialisms from 1997

5.7. Course "Postgraduate Diploma in Hydrography" and "Bsc (HONS) Hydrography" of the Plymouth University, U.K.

The Board reviewed these two courses submitted for re-recognition and new recognition respectively.

The Board was unable to proceed conclusively on these courses due to various deficiencies in the documentation. Plymouth University will be sent a letter including a list of the topics

missing and other information missing and encouraging the re-submission of the courses before the next Board meeting.

6. Review of the Standards of Competence

At its XIXth meeting, the Board had decided to carry out a review in depth of the Standards, restructuring the Syllabus to provide a new organization as follows :

1. Basic or background subjects, which may be fully or partially carried from other courses and exempted.
2. Essential subjects, concentrating the minimum standards necessary for a professional career.
3. The specialisms previously required under Edition 5, 6 and 7 of the Standards will be replaced by Optional Units, for which the Board will provide guidelines. These Optional Units provide guidance on complementary matters which may be offered by the different courses. They are described more generally, allowing organizations more flexibility in offering different training options.
4. Courses already recognized under the system of Specialisms will maintain the Certificates as they stand until they are due for re-submission.

Considerable effort was made by the Board to finalize the re-structuring of the Model Syllabus and a new version of this was produced and will be circulated to Board members for their review and final termination of the task by correspondence;

It is intended to publish the Eighth edition of the Standards (IHO publication M-5) by 1st November 1997.

7. Other matters

The Board discussed the existing mechanism for the replacement of a member who ends his term of service. It was agreed that the feelings of the Board on the profile of a candidate to a vacant post should be sent to the parent organization involved. The Board therefore decided that the Chairman will write a letter to the Chairman of FIG Commission IV about the replacement of FIG members whose retirement from the Board is expected in a near future. It was also decided to remind FIG that after the change of the Terms of Reference, in 1996, there is not at present a mandatory end of the term of service.

The Board appreciated the seriousness with which the FIG executives have treated the issue of financial support for FIG nominees to the Board.

8. Date/Venue of the next meeting

It was decided that the next meeting will be held in Tokyo (Japan), from 8 to 14 July 1998. The Board thanked Mr. Tadao TATSUNO for his offer to host the meeting.

Dead lines for submission of courses was therefore fixed at 1st April 1998.

9. Close of the meeting

Before closing the meeting, the Board thanked Mr. Alan Yardley (Australia), who was leaving the Board, for his outstanding contribution during seven years as a member and specially for his work on the eighth edition of the Standards. FIG has been requested to propose a new member to replace Mr. Yardley.

There being no other points to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1200 on 6 August 1997.