

17th ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING  
International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco  
25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

**1. Welcome address**

Admiral Maratos, President of the International Hydrographic Bureau welcomed participants to the IHB on behalf of the Directing Committee of the Bureau and the staff. He hoped that both the Business Meeting and the Conference would be productive and interesting.

**2. Domestic and administrative arrangements**

Steve Shipman as Secretary of ABLOS outlined the arrangements for the meeting and the conference. He said that new equipment had been purchased by the IHB which meant that the layout of the room for the conference was now better than it had been in previous years as there was now a projector for each side of the room and a monitor in front of the platform for the panel chairman and speaker to use.

**3. Opening remarks by the Chairman**

Chris Rizos, Chairman of ABLOS declared the meeting open at 09:26 on October 25. He thanked the IHB for hosting the meeting and Steve Shipman for his considerable amount of work in preparing for the meeting. The intention would be for items 1 – 7 of the agenda to be covered in the first session

**4. Appointment of rapporteur.**

The Chairman appointed John Brown, an observer from the UK as rapporteur.

**5. Introduction of participants and apologies for absence**

The Chairman invited the participants to introduce themselves and to give a short update on their activities since the last Business Meeting. These updates have been incorporated into agenda item 14 below.

The Chairman welcomed Captain Izabel King Jeck who had replaced Captain Luiz Carlos Torres as the Brazilian IHO observer. Captain Torres having retired from the Brazilian Navy is now an ABLOS appointed observer. A list of participants who attended is appended at annex A to these minutes.

Apologies were noted from Muhammad Bashir and Graeme Blick who were unable to attend the meeting and from Zvonko Gržetić who would not arrive until after the start of the meeting. The Chairman informed the meeting that the DOALOS representative could not attend the 17th business meeting.

## **6. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chairman stated that the provisional agenda had been circulated amongst the members and having received no comments or proposals, moved that the agenda as circulated be adopted; a proposal which met with unanimous approval.

## **7. 6<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference Final Arrangements**

The Secretary reported that a letter had been sent by the Chairman of ABLOS to the Director of DOALOS to address his concern that ABLOS was straying from its remit to discuss technical issues and assure him that this was certainly not the intention, pointing out that it is not possible to completely separate legal and technical issues and discuss them independently of one another. The letter highlighted the fact that delivery of papers from a wide range of disciplines has been a major factor in the popularity of the ABLOS conferences and concluded by expressing the hope the concern had been addressed and that DOALOS would be able to participate in both the 17<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Business Meeting and the 6<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference.

It was noted that 1 paper which was scheduled for Monday 25 October had to be cancelled as the presenter was unavailable for personal reasons, and that the presenter who was scheduled to be on after the Keynote Speech had just phoned in to say that French Railways were having problems and his arrival would be delayed. A contingency was put in place to cover for this.

The Secretary then gave a short presentation on the format of the conference highlighting the new technology available. He mentioned that the CD would be prepared and distributed on Wednesday 27 October with any presentation which had been submitted too late to be included being made available from the ABLOS website.

The conference budget was reported as being healthy, and with the forecast overtime figure having been reduced significantly, looked like resulting in a profit in the region of some € 2,600.

The Chairman said that with a total of 92 delegates expected it was good to see such a high level of interest which he hoped would translate into a successful conference.

The first session of the Business meeting was adjourned at 1155, with delegates going to view the conference facilities.

## **Second session of the 17<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Business meeting**

The ABLOS Business meeting re-convened at 09:10 on Thursday 28 October.

### **8. Approval of the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting**

The Secretary stated that he had circulated the draft minutes of the meeting to the members and had received one or two minor amendments to the draft minutes which had been incorporated. There being no further suggested amendments the minutes were approved.

### **9. ABLOS the way forward**

#### **a. Terms of Reference**

The Secretary said that the ABLOS ToR had been approved by the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) in 2009, however there was one minor change required which was editorial in nature. He suggested that (IHO/IAG) be inserted after the words “parent organizations” in several places in the ToR for the sake of clarity. This was agreed and considered to be of an editorial nature such that there was no need to refer the change to the parent organizations.

**Action IHB**

#### **b. Membership**

The Secretary displayed a list of the current members of ABLOS with dates of their terms of membership which was reviewed. Chris Carleton indicated that he was willing to take over the role of Chair from Chris Rizos for the period 2010 to 2012.

Zvonko Gržetić's current membership is due for renewal, and Admiral Maratos said that IHB would write to member states for approval to extend his membership for another term.

**Action IHB**

Two IAG nominated members are due to reach the end of their terms next year. IAG are therefore asked to nominate new members, who would be encouraged to attend the next ABLOS Business Meeting prior to their term commencing.

**Action C Rizos**

It was felt that it would be good to encourage closer liaison with the IOC by inviting a representative to attend ABLOS Business Meetings as an observer. The secretary undertook to write formally to the Executive Secretary of the IOC inviting him to attend in that capacity.

**Action IHB**

**c. Election of Vice Chair.**

Traditionally, the Vice Chair represents the parent organization who is not providing the Chair. The Chairman observed that the Vice Chair should be an IAG representative and that he had no hesitation in nominating Sunil Bisnath. This was supported by all present. Sunil accepted the nomination and was duly appointed as the next Vice Chair of ABLOS.

**d. Capacity Building Training Course**

Chris Carleton related how in response to a request to ABLOS from the East Asia Hydrographic Commission via the IHO, the IHB had sent details of a course outline prepared by the ABLOS Training Working Group to the EAHC intimating that ABLOS were prepared to conduct the training course.

Chris Carleton and John Brown had agreed to carry out the training in November 2010 as it was felt that due to the highly practical content of the course, two trainers were necessary, rather than the one suggested by EAHC. EAHC agreed to cover subsistence costs, but travel would be paid by the UKHO.

It was felt for future courses funding for travel for trainers may prove to be an issue, although it may prove possible to use the IHO Capacity Building Fund for this purpose. There had been no requests for training in 2011, however it was anticipated that there may be one from the NIOHC in 2012.

**10. 6<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference wash-up**

Sunil Bisnath reported that 35 copies of the questionnaire had been completed and submitted which it was felt was a good level of response. Initial views indicate that the length of the conference, content and numbers of delegates was about right.

In the following discussion, several delegates said that in addition to the questionnaires verbal reports had been made to them which indicated a high level of satisfaction from conference delegates, however the following observations were made:

- Abstracts for the papers could have been made available in the conference packs.
- Registration forms could be modified to give both an indication of background and a more accurate representation of the country of origin of the delegates (rather than the country they are currently studying in).
- Titles could have been chosen for the various sessions in line with the theme which might give an indication of the content.
- Suggestion to have a discussion session as the last session of each day.

- There was potential to have “intro” sessions or context papers for those who are not necessarily aware of all the issues surrounding a topic.

On a reassuring note, it was reported that the initial estimate of a profit of € 2,600 from the conference had now been revised in the light of actual attendance to € 4,700.

## **11. 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference (Initial Planning)**

A discussion took place concerning initial thoughts for the planning of the next ABLOS conference. The point was made that while numbers actually attending the 2010 conference were at around the maximum for the IHB due to the constraints imposed by the facilities there was interest from a greater number to participate. There was the possibility of getting the use of the Salle des Varietées, provided it was felt that numbers would support use of that particular venue. It was felt that there might be merit in asking the Monaco Society for Law of the Sea if they were prepared to assist in putting together the next conference which could help raise interest and awareness, and more importantly increase numbers. It was felt that the best approach for setting a date was to approach the Monaco Government and ascertain which dates in October 2012 the Salle des Varietées would be available, and at the same time initiate an approach to the Monaco Society for Law of the Sea concerning feasibility of the joint approach.

### **Action IHB**

A committee was formed to assist with the organisation consisting of:

- Chris Carleton agreed to chair the organising committee.
- John Brown agreed to look at submitted papers and put the sessions together assisted by Shin Tani.
- Sunil Bisnath agreed to look after publicity and associated matters and would be assisted by Ron Macnab.
- Steve Shipman offered help where necessary.

## **12. ABLOS Fund**

Steve Shipman gave an update on the state of the conference fund which has an estimated balance of about €17000 owing to the fact that expenses were considerably lower than budgeted. The secretary will circulate the final details to members as soon as all the bills have been paid.

## **13. Status and maintenance of TALOS Manual (C-51)**

Chris Rizos said that although no requests have been received either by the Chairman or the IHB for any amendments to be made to the document since the last Business meeting he had undertaken an informal review of the manual. After concluding this review his opinion was that a complete revision of the geodetic section is required, and he would not be surprised if in the light of technological advances the same was required of the other sections.

He also said that whilst editing may be one approach which could be adopted, he felt that the structure needed to be revisited as well. We should identify what is useful to preserve, but any weaknesses had to be identified. He offered to undertake a “first edit” in order to get the ball rolling.

### **Action C Rizos**

Ron Macnab suggested contacting talented individuals who may also wish to assist with the revision of the manual once the way ahead had been established. This suggestion was felt to have merit, and it would be left to the editorial committee to approach suitable individuals at a later date.

It was felt that some consideration ought to be given to the creation of some form of online “wiki” version in the fullness of time, but the most important point was that the manual had to be relevant and helpful to the end user.

Volunteers were sought from amongst those present to undertake a review of certain critical areas and the following offered their services:

- Shin Tani: Chapter 3 including Use of electronic charts, assisted by Steve Shipman
- Chris Rizos: Chapter 2 Geodesy, assisted by Sunil Bisnath, Lars Sjoberg, Graeme Blick
- Ron Macnab offered his services as general co-ordinator / Editor-in-Chief
- John Brown: Chapter 4 Baselines
- Shin Tani: Chapter 5
- Chris Carleton: Chapter 6, assisted by John Brown

The review should take the form of a critical review of content and possibly format, and conclude with a suggested way forward for the part they had reviewed. The aim would be to have a meeting of the editorial committee probably in Monaco towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011 and then bring together any ideas for further reform and commence work on a new version so that there would be a working draft together with ideas for further development by the next Business Meeting. The idea then would be to allow an extra day at the next Business Meeting for the editorial committee to meet.

#### **14. Reports on member’s attendance at LOS related conferences and meetings**

The Chairman invited the delegates to give an update on any LOS related conferences or meetings they had attended during the year.

Ron Macnab attended the Second Polar Law Symposium, September 10-11, 2009, University of Akureyri, Iceland. Presented invited paper entitled “Nationalizing the Arctic Maritime Commons: UNCLOS Article 76 and the Polar Sea”, scheduled for publication October 2010 in Yearbook of Polar Law (Brill).

Northern Research Forum Working Group on Legal Issues in the Arctic, September 12, 2009, University of Akureyri, Iceland. Presented paper entitled “The Southern and Arctic Oceans: Polar Opposites in Many Respects”, scheduled for publication October 2010 in Yearbook of Polar Law (Brill).

Topical Session on “Arctic Diplomacy and International Law” during ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, December 9, 2009, Victoria, Canada. Presented paper co-authored with Mead Treadwell (then Chairman of the US Arctic Research Commission) entitled “The Arctic Ocean in Diplomacy and International Law: Can we Enact a Regime for Marine Scientific Research?” Not submitted for publication.

Law of the Sea Conference on “Current Problematic Issues in the Law of the Sea”, June 3-4, 2010, Trinity College Dublin. Presented invited paper entitled “Third-Party Reactions to Continental Shelf Submissions, and their Treatment by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”, scheduled for publication in Conference Proceedings by end 2010 (Brill).

Ravi Nautiyal reported that his job had changed and that he was now back at sea, however he had attended a Bay of Bengal and Andaman Island seminar at New Delhi in March 2010.

Lars Sjöberg attended EUREF annual symposium 2010, June 2-5, Gävle, Sweden. Member of Local Organizing Committee. Oral presentation of a paper entitled *A rigorous formula for geoid-to-quasigeoid separation*. (See also J Geod (2010)84:699-702.) He was also Leader of and lecturer at the *First International School on the KTH Approach to Modeling the Geoid*, 20-24 September, 2010, at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey (For a report, see IAG Newsletter, Oct. 2010).

Katsuhiro Kusunoki worked as the head of steering working group for “International Seminar on Latest Technology for Hydrographic Survey”, which was hosted by Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department Japan (JHOD), on 12-13th November 2009 in Tokyo under the financial support of Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF). The seminar was focused on the revised S-44 and on interferometric sonar. JHOD invited to the seminar 4 lecturers from UKHO, US-NOAA, New Hampshire University US and a private company in Japan, as well as participants from 9 countries in Asia.

Chris Carleton had presented a one day session to the Nippon Foundation students at IFLOS. Attended Law of the Sea Conference on “Current Problematic Issues in the Law of the Sea”, Trinity College Dublin. He also reported that he was involved in preparing and delivering the LOS training package requested by EAHC from ABLOS.

John Brown co-presented a workshop on maritime boundary delimitation at IFLOS Summer Academy in Hamburg. Attended Law of the Sea Conference on “Current Problematic Issues in the Law of the Sea”, Trinity College Dublin. Attended ICJ as Technical Advisor to Nicaragua at intervention hearings in the Nicaragua v Columbia case.

Sobar Sutisna hosted the Indonesian TALOS seminar in 2009. The proceedings of this have been completed and are ready to be posted on the ABLOS website. He has also been involved in studying the impact of geodetic datum in delimitation.

Shin Tani has been involved domestically with co-ordinating marine information for seabed and resources; AUV use; involved in the Japanese Arctic Committee and has participated in a CLCS meeting in New York at the UN and also at a GEBCO meeting in Peru.

Luiz Torres was Scientific Coordinator onboard MV Sea Surveyor in order to verify geophysical data gathered in the Brazilian Margin which will be used to support new Brazilian Submission, Belem-Fortaleza and Fortaleza-Fortaleza, in the time periods: 09 December to 08 January and 07 April to 07 May, respectively; he participated in 30 July of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay Continental Shelf Outer Limit Harmonization Meeting which occurred in the Brazilian Hydrographic Office facilities, and had also conducted presentations regarding Brazilian Maritime Limits in the following institutions: USP – Universidade de Sao Paulo, campus, Piracicaba; UNESP - Universidade do Estado de Sao Paulo, campus Rio Claro and UFSCAR – Universidade Federal of Sao Carlos, from 24 to 26 August.

Izabel King Jeck has been putting together a group to do a complete resubmission of the Brazilian ECS proposal. The data acquisition for this has been completed.

Steve Shipman attended the United Nations Informal open ended Consultation Process on Oceans and Law Of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) at the UN New York 21 – 25 June 2010.

Admiral Maratos had recently attended a Sea Power Symposium in Venice where dialogue and discussions took place to combat not just terrorist activity on the High Seas but all illegal activities.

Chris Rizos had attended the annual meeting of the UN's International Committee on GNSS (ICG) in Turin, Italy and gave a short update on the its deliberations regarding GNSS "interoperability" (amongst other things). He also announced that he was the President Elect of the IAG, and in view of that forthcoming commitment would not seek to extend his current membership of ABLOS after it expires in 2011.

## **15. New developments relating to CLCS submissions**

Chris Carleton said that the UK's submission the CLCS for Ascension Island had been totally rejected by the Commissioners.

Shin Tani gave an update on the Japanese submission and said that there had been no indications from the Commissioners yet even though it was expected soon.

Ron Macnab asked if there had been any progress by the UN concerning the CLCS workload, to which the answer appears to be in the negative.



The Chairman regretted that there was no representative from DOALOS present to give an update from their perspective.

#### **16. Review of requests to ABLOS**

The Secretary said that he had received no requests.

#### **17. Report to IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)**

Steve Shipman showed a copy of the report which had been submitted to the HSSC – it being the body within the IHO under which ABLOS sits.

The next report is due in August/September 2011.

#### **18. Any Other Business**

Ron Macnab suggested that a copy of the minutes and the CD of the conference proceedings be sent to ABELOS and DOALOS.

**Action IHB**

Steve Shipman announced that he had found approximately 200 copies of the “Blue Book” when clearing out a store room and that he would make some available for ABLOS delegates to take away with them.

The question of copyright of conference papers was raised. As far as the IHB are concerned there are no copyright issues involved – the authors still retain ownership of the work which can thus be published elsewhere if required.

#### **19. Date & venue of next meeting**

The next ABLOS business meeting will be held in Chile. The incoming Chairman Chris Carleton will circulate the date and venue as soon as they are confirmed with the hosts. It is anticipated that the meeting will incorporate a 2 day seminar workshop, which if added to a 1½ business meeting and a 1 day TALOS manual meeting would mean a 4½ day meeting sometime in the latter half of October 2011. (Post meeting note: The week commencing 10 October has been provisionally agreed with our Chilean hosts.)

#### **20. Close of the meeting**

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the delegates for attending, and the IHB for the excellent meeting arrangements.

Chris Carleton paid tribute to Chris Rizos for all his hard work during his period as Chairman and wished him well for his term as President of the IAG.

On completion of the meeting Chris Carleton assumed the position as Chair of ABLOS and Sunil Bisnath that of Vice Chair.

The meeting was closed at 12:42.