

3RD MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
IHB, Monaco, 8-10 November 2011
(Chair Group Meeting on 7 November p.m.)

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

IHO Stakeholders' Forum

Submitted by:	IRCC
Executive Summary:	Noting that each strategic direction of the IHO Strategic Plan identifies one or more issues requiring some interaction with the IHO Stakeholders and building on previous considerations about the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum, IRCC invites the HSSC to consider a joint recommendation to the International Hydrographic Conference on developing relations with the IHO Stakeholders.
Related Documents:	IHO 5-year Work Programme 2008-2012 Minutes of IHO-HSSC2- Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2009 (§ 8.2) Minutes of IHO-IRCC3 - Niteroi, Brazil, 26-27 May 2011 (§ 4.1) Proposed 2012 IHO Work Programme (task 1.3.3b - CL 45/2011 of 29 July 2011)
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

The provision of timely input from the industry on ECDIS matters was discussed at IRCC2 and the Committee agreed action IRCC02/15 inviting HSSC to consider the way forward for the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum. Accordingly, the Chair of IRCC submitted a paper to HSSC2 (HSSC2-08.2A). The IHB Directing Committee informed HSSC2 of its plan to convene an IHO Stakeholders' Forum to be held at the IMO Headquarters in London-UK immediately prior to the 57th meeting of the IMO NAV Sub-Committee (NAV57 - 6-10 June 2011). The IHB proposal was fully supported by HSSC. However, further investigation by the IHB showed that the meeting could only be held on the Friday before the NAV session and that it would be difficult to attract a wide audience with few pressing issues needing to be addressed. Therefore the IHB Directing Committee informed the Chair of IRCC of its decision to consider alternative options for the Forum and elicit proposals for topics to be discussed and for appropriate venues (letter dated 8 February 2011). The Chair of IRCC informed the members of the Committee of this outcome by correspondence and offered a review of the possible options. Noting that it appeared unrealistic to try to organize a meaningful alternative in the first semester of 2011 it was agreed to revisit the issue at IRCC3 (26-27 May 2011).

It is worth noting that following MSC88, the IHB had organized in February 2011 a workshop on ECDIS software issues which attracted 37 representatives from Stakeholder groups (IHO CL 19/2011 dated 24 February 2011). This workshop focused on investigating possible procedural and organizational arrangements that might help overcome certain operating anomalies that had been identified within ECDIS. It was not intended as a full-fledged IHO Stakeholders' Forum.

2. Analysis/Discussion/Recommendation

Three aspects must be considered when addressing the organization of the next IHO Stakeholders' Forum:

- purpose and contents,
- participation,
- time and venue.

2.1. Purpose and contents

Each strategic direction of the IHO Strategic Plan identifies one or more issues requiring some interaction with the IHO Stakeholders. The associated interests can be outlined in five categories:

- improve the efficiency and coherence of the IHO activities,

- ensure that the decisions, standards and other products of the IHO are based on a robust and all inclusive approach,
- promote the existence, use and support of IHO standards,
- promote the use and provision of high quality hydrographic products and services,
- contribute to fostering a well-informed citizenry.

They involve both a “top down” approach (IHO towards its Stakeholders) and a “bottom up” approach (Stakeholders towards IHO).

In order to identify what could be the focus of the next Forum, it is proposed to:

- (i) invite both HSSC and IRCC Committees to identify which work items, if any, could benefit from discussion in a forum with the relevant stakeholders;
- (ii) invite the IHB, as suggested in its letter of 8 February 2011, to canvas the Stakeholders’ Community about specific proposals for discussion topics.

As far as it is concerned, IRCC notes the importance of ECDIS related issues and recommends focusing the relations with stakeholders on them in the short term, in the context of e-navigation development. Capacity Building could also benefit from wider interactions with the relevant Stakeholders but ways and means to implement in an efficient manner such wider interactions requires further investigations by the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC).

2.2. Participation

The IHB maintains three lists of Stakeholders:

- the list of International Organizations which have signed a MOU or a Cooperative Agreement with the IHO;
- the list of Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIOs) accredited as Observers;
- the list of ECDIS Stakeholders.

IRCC proposes to invite the IHB to expand the inventory to other sectors such as industry (outside the ECDIS community), academia and the media, and to identify the main items of interest for each Stakeholder, or group of Stakeholders, through inputs from IRCC, HSSC, as well as from individual Member States.

2.3. Time and venue

The early editions of the IHO “Industry Days” were stand-alone events until 2003. The following forums focused on ECDIS issues were associated with another meeting¹. Some specialized workshops have been organized as stand-alone events also².

Reviewing the events involving IHO Stakeholders which are planned in the second semester of 2011 and in the first semester of 2012, IRCC noted that the next session of the IMO Assembly (London, UK - 21-30 November 2011) could offer an ideal occasion to interact with the IMO constituency, including the possibility to lobby for the effective implementation of IMO MSC Circular MSC.1/Circ.1373 about IHO membership. The conjunction with the ECDIS Revolution 2nd Conference and Exhibition (London, UK - 23-24 November 2011) will offer a specific opportunity, although restricted to ECDIS issues and possibly interfering with the Assembly programme. A separate event convened right after the IMO Assembly would either interfere with the IMO Council meeting on Thursday 1st December or require participants to prolong their stay in London until Friday 2 December and therefore was considered unpractical.

An obvious alternative in 2012 would be to convene a Forum in the context of the next International Hydrographic Conference (or Assembly), taking advantage of the expected presence of a number of observers from varied organizations and background. The proximity of the 2012 milestone of the ECDIS carriage requirement implementation would also constitute a meaningful background. However, noting that this option is not supported by the IHB Directing Committee, IRCC members agreed that it was too premature to organize a Forum prior to or in connection with the 18th IHC. However, the general feeling was that the IHO would definitely benefit from both improving its visibility in non-IHO events related with its activities and organizing specific IHO encounters with its Stakeholders.

¹ The 1st ECDIS Stakeholders Forum was held in conjunction with CHRIS-17, 2005, in Rostock, Germany.
 The 2nd Forum was held in conjunction with WEND-10, 2006, at the IHB in Monaco.
 The 3rd Forum was held in conjunction with CHRIS-19, 2007, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
 The 4th Forum was held in conjunction with WEND-11, 2008, in Tokyo, Japan.
 In 2009, the 3rd ECDIS Conference was held in conjunction with HSSC-1, in Singapore.

² See http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=309.

The IHO Stakeholders' Forum is covered by Task 4.2.3 - Communication with Hydrographic Industry of the IHO 5-year Work Programme 2008-2012. It is reflected as "Task 1.3.3 - Outreach to IHO Stakeholders" in the proposed 2012 IHO Work Programme with two components:

- 1.3.3a: presentation of papers at conferences, etc.
- 1.3.3b: Biennial IHO Stakeholders' briefing

A number of events are listed under 1.3.3a while under 1.3.3b, the IHB comment is: "No expenditure anticipated in 2012".

Accordingly, IRCC proposes:

- (i) to encourage the IHB to develop the participation of IHO, through the presence of IHB representatives or through the presence of representatives of IHO Member States, in non-IHO events,
- (ii) to approve the implicit IHB proposal to hold biennial IHO Stakeholders' Forum Meetings, and
- (iii) to aim at organizing the next edition as soon as possible after the IH Conference/Assembly and not later than 2013.

The meeting will require careful management in order to address the diverse field of interests and ensure that key stakeholders recognize the benefits of attendance and that the discussion of technical topics are at the correct level to facilitate the cross fertilization of ideas. This could be achieved by attendees with mutual interests holding parallel meetings in order to discuss common issues. Holding some joint sessions as well could generate some mutual interaction between the groups.

3. Action required of HSSC

Based on the discussion in section 2, IRCC invites HSSC to consider the following joint recommendation to the International Hydrographic Conference on developing relation with the IHO Stakeholders:

Noting that each strategic direction of the IHO Strategic Plan identifies one or more issues requiring some interaction with the IHO Stakeholders which involve both a "top down" approach (IHO towards its Stakeholders) and a "bottom up" approach (Stakeholders towards IHO);

Noting that the IHO would benefit from both improving its visibility in non-IHO events related with its activities and organizing specific IHO encounters with its Stakeholders;

Noting that the IHB maintains three lists of Stakeholders:

- the list of International Organizations which have signed a MOU or a Cooperative Agreement with the IHO,
- the list of Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIOs) accredited as Observers,
- the list of ECDIS Stakeholders;

HSSC and IRCC invite the Conference to approve the following action plan regarding outreach to IHO Stakeholders:

(a) the IHB is invited, through annual inputs from HSSC, IRCC, as well as from individual IHO Member States, to maintain an inventory of IHO Stakeholders based on the existing lists and expanded to all relevant sectors such as industry (outside the ECDIS community), academia and the media, with the identification of the main items of interest for each Stakeholder or Stakeholders' group;

(b) both HSSC and IRCC Committees are invited to identify annually which items of their Work Programmes could benefit from exchanges with the relevant Stakeholders;

(c) the IHB is invited to canvas the IHO Stakeholders biennially about specific proposals for discussion topics;

(d) the IHB is invited to develop the participation of IHO, through the presence of IHB representatives or through the presence of representatives of IHO Member States, in non-IHO events of interest, to be identified in the IHO Work Programme, based on inputs from HSSC, IRCC and individual IHO Member States;

(e) the IHB is invited to plan biennial IHO Stakeholders' Forum Meetings in the IHO Work Programme;

(f) the IHB is invited to organize the next IHO Stakeholders' Forum as soon as possible after the IH Conference/Assembly and not later than 2013 and to focus on ECDIS related issues, with the support of HSSC and IRCC.