

**5TH MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO IRCC5**

WOLLONGONG, AUSTRALIA, 3-4 JUNE 2013

Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHB.

New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September 2012. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in IHO Circular Letter 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes oversees IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building and is the Secretary of the IRCC. Director Gilles Bessero oversees Programme 2 - the IHO technical programme and is the Secretary of the HSSC. President Robert Ward oversees Programme 1 - concerned with the overall functioning and governance of the Organization.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO

3. As of 1 May 2013, 39 of the required minimum of 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following Member States that were signatories to the Convention when the amendments were agreed in 2005 have yet to indicate their formal approval to the Depositary State (Monaco):

Algeria; Argentina; Bahrain; Belgium; China; Colombia; Croatia; Ecuador; Egypt; Fiji; Guatemala; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kuwait; Malaysia; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nigeria; Oman; Philippines; Russia; Serbia; Singapore; Suriname; Syria; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad & Tobago; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Venezuela.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

4. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 1 May 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	34 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	29 of 52 required
Georgia	23 of 52 required

Diplomatic Engagement

5. The Directing Committee has embarked on a programme of visits to brief non-Member State officials on the global status of hydrography and the relevance of the IHO to non-Member States. This is being done through targeted in-country visits and briefings and through visits to diplomatic legations in Paris or London when convenient.

6. The Directing Committee, in consultation with individual Member State representatives, briefs relevant diplomatic missions in order to raise the profile of the respective national hydrographic service and the importance of hydrography.

7. The Directing Committee now holds regular briefings with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Monaco so as to maximise levels of awareness of hydrography and the IHO at the highest diplomatic levels, particularly in the UN and through the diplomatic services.

8. The Directing Committee, with the assistance of the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing outstanding approvals of the Amendments to the Convention or of Membership of the IHO.

C-55 GIS Metadata Data Base - Progress Report

9. The development of a new framework for C-55 is in progress at the IHB taking into account input from the IRCC-4 meeting and feedback from Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings. The IHB has produced a harmonised model for product metadata that will form the basis of a regional metadata GIS data base. The metadata elements have (as far as possible) been aligned with S-100. They make provision for ENC, paper chart and survey coverage and also quality metadata. Other metadata parameters include MSI, tidal records and undersea feature information. The IHB is currently populating a test database for the Antarctic region that is based on this model. It is anticipated that this will be presented to the 13th HCA meeting scheduled to take place in Cadiz, Spain in December. It is proposed that this model, once implemented for the HCA will become the model for establishing metadata databases for all regional hydrographic commissions.

10. The UKHO has provided a demonstration of colour coded M_QUAL polygons extracted from ENCs that could be used in the regional metadata GIS data base. A simple red, amber, green colour scheme based on CATZOC zones of confidence was used to indicate areas ranging from adequately surveyed to inadequately surveyed. Unassessed areas were coloured in grey. Unfortunately the IHB does not currently have access to most of the world's ENC data and is therefore not able to include such data in the database at the moment.

11. Alongside the development of the C-55 GIS data base, the IHO through the assistance of an officer seconded from Japan, has developed and is populating a States and Organizations database that will be used as the primary source for generating content for the Yearbook (P-5) and other online resources. It is anticipated that the database will eventually be linked to the C-55 (regional) GIS metadata data base.

World Hydrography Day

12. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is "*Hydrography - supporting the blue economy*". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The IHB has provide supporting material on the IHO website (CL 13/2013 dated 14 February refers).

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC 5)

13. EIHC 5 will take place 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (CL 101/2012 dated 28 November refers). In a new departure from previous conferences, it is intended to set aside time for various bodies to highlight their work and their programmes. It is hoped that these sessions will inform Member States, provoke discussion and provide new ideas for work and engagement in areas not previously investigated. It may well cause Member States to also question the work being undertaken by some bodies and even if some bodies continue to have relevance in the future.

Capacity Building Programme

14. The Directing Committee, and in particular Director Iptes, has embarked on a programme of visits to recruit new funding supporters for the IHO Capacity Building Programme.

IHO Work Programme

15. **Sustainability** The IHB notes a general increase in the ability of some IHO subordinate bodies to progress important tasks in the IHO Work Programme. This appears to be due to the limited availability of some members of these bodies to attend meetings or to progress work inter-sessionally. The IHB is monitoring the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the 18th IHC concerning ensuring an appropriate level of technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

16. **Schedule for IHO Meetings** The IHB initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to assist resource planning by the IHB and States, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and autumn periods.

17. The initiative has not been particularly successful so far. Only 5 (NIOHC14, NHC58, IBSC37, RSAHC6, SWAtHC8) of the 23 IRCC bodies have provided any information regarding indicative dates or possible venues for meetings in 2014. No dates or venues have been declared for any meetings 2015. IRCC bodies that have provided information have held to their traditional dates each year.

Action Requested of NHC Member States

18. IRCC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.