

11TH WEND COMMITTEE MEETING
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Paper for Consideration by WEND

The EAHC Approach for ENCs

Submitted by : Chair(EAHC) - Singapore

Executive Summary: This paper provides an overview of the approach taken by the EAHC to increase ENC coverage and ENC harmonisation with the objective of providing adequate ENC covering the major shipping routes and ports in the East Asia region. Two significant outcomes are the launch of the new edition of the South China Sea ENCs on 1 Oct 2008 and the formation of an ENC Technical Advisory Group to address ENC harmonisation issues.

Related Documents: Nil

Related Projects: Nil

Introduction

The EAHC has always supported the use of ECDIS with ENCs. As such the Commission has taken proactive steps to increase ENC coverage and quality. As a first step, in 2004, the EAHC formed the South China Sea (SCS) ENC TaskGroup to jointly produce ENCs covering one of the busiest shipping routes in the East Asia. The SCS ENCs (planning scale) were launched on 31 March 2005 and has been updated regularly on a monthly basis.

2 The EAHC saw the need to further increase ENC coverage and improve data quality. The SCS ENCs formed a basis for the EAHC to further increase the ENC coverage by coordinating with member States (MS) on their respective national ENC programmes for production and quality assuring medium and large scale ENCs.

3 In 2007, the ENC TaskGroup also addressed the issue of adequate ENC coverage of High Speed Crafts (HSC) ferry routes in preparation for the mandatory ECDIS carriage requirements onboard these crafts. An example of this effort was the joint production and Quality Assurance of Singapore-Barelang ENCs which covered ferry routes between ferry terminals in Singapore and Riau,

Indonesia. Additionally, the EAHC examined all HSC ferry routes in the region to ensure timely release of ENC cells before the coming into force of the IMO regulation.

Commitment from the EAHC

4 The EAHC would continue to support the provision of ENC cells covering the major shipping routes and ports by 2010 through the following programmes:

a) **ENC Coverage**

i) Regular monitoring of MS ENC production programmes

The Commission has developed an on-line ENC Catalogue showing the coverage, status and usage of bands of ENC cells covering the East Asia region. The catalogue is regularly maintained by the Catalogue Administrator. The Commission expects more than 700 new ENC cells covering the region to be released in the next 2 years. The ENC TG would use the Catalogue to assess areas of needs and advise the Commission of recommended actions to be taken.

ii) Launch of the New Edition of the SCS ENC cells

With the growing number of ECDIS users using the SCS ENC cells and the numerous chart updates covering the area, the EAHC has agreed to jointly update and release the 2nd edition of the SCS ENC on 1 October 2009. The ENC cells would be continued to be offered free of charge to users.

b) **Consistency**

i) ENC Harmonisation Guidelines

Since the launch of the SCS ENC cells in 2005, the EAHC saw the need for MS to focus on data quality and harmonisation. The ENC TG was tasked to look into this and has since met regularly and jointly developed ENC production guidelines for MS to use.

ii) Formation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The EAHC recognises the dire need for data harmonisation between ENC cells and usage bands. The EAHC proposed the formation of a TAG to develop its own harmonisation guidelines that would be applicable for the region. The TAG would be a volunteer core group of EAHC MS to provide technical advice to MS. Advice would include application of harmonisation guidelines formulated by the EAHC in ENC data production and QA for the purpose of data consistency in overlapping areas and between usage bands.

c) **Capacity Building**

A 3-day ENC QA course for EAHC MS would be conducted in Thailand in mid Sep 2008. A similar course would be conducted in 2009. Both courses were supported and funded by the IHO CBC. The courses are targeted at “training the trainers” and the objective is to provide confidence to MS to carry out their ENC QA and release their ENCs for navigation.

Conclusion

5 The EAHC with its ENC production and QA framework, we aim to provide quality ENCs covering all the major shipping routes and ports in the East Asia region by 2010. The EAHC will continue to support the SCS project and the ENC harmonisation work.

Recommendations

6 The EAHC is willing to work and share its ENC production and QA framework with adjacent RHCs in order to achieve the objective of providing complete global ENC coverage by 2010.

Action Required by WEND

- 7 The WEND Committee is requested to :
- a) take note of the EAHC ENC work programmes in increasing ENC coverage.
 - b) take note of the TAG on ENC data harmonisation.
 - b) report the launch of the new edition of the SCS ENC on 1 Oct 2008 to the IHB.
