



IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Commission hydrographique de l'Atlantique oriental

13^{ème} Conférence - Casablanca (Maroc)

16-18 septembre 2014

Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission

13th Conference - Casablanca (Morocco)

16-18 September 2014

Relations avec le Groupe sur l'observation de la Terre (GEO)

Relations with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Gilles Bessero

Contexte - *Background*

- ✦ *GEO is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations launched in 2003 in response to calls for action by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and by the G8 (Group of Eight) leading industrialized countries*
- ✦ *GEO is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) in order to exploit the growing potential of Earth observations to support decision making in an increasingly complex and environmentally stressed world*
- ✦ *Composition:*
 - *Members: 90 Governments and the European Commission*
 - *Participating organizations: 77 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues*
 - *Observers*



Contexte - *Background*

- ✦ *GEO governance:*
 - *meets annually in plenary session*
 - *strategic guidance provided by a Ministerial Summit every two or three years*
 - *GEO Secretariat hosted by the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.*
 - *Implementation Plan from which a rolling quadrennial work programme is derived*
 - *GEO relies mainly on the in-kind contribution to implement its work programme.*

- ✦ *Regional dimension based on five regional caucuses:*
 - *Africa*
 - *Americas*
 - *Asia and Oceania*
 - *Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)*
 - *Europe*



Représentation de la région CHAtO au sein de GEO

GEO membership in the EAtHC Region

- ✦ *Cameroon*
- ✦ *Côte d'Ivoire*
- ✦ *France*
- ✦ *Gabon*
- ✦ *Ghana*
- ✦ *Guinea-Bissau*
- ✦ *Guinea*
- ✦ *Morocco*
- ✦ *Nigeria*
- ✦ *Portugal*
- ✦ *Republic of the Congo*
- ✦ *Spain*



Relations de l'OHI avec GEO

IHO relations with GEO

- ✦ *IHO participation is an outcome of the IHO seminar on "The Role of Hydrographic Services with Regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure" held in Rostock, Germany, in 2005*
- ✦ *The IHO was accepted as a participating organization in 2006 and the GEBCO programme was accepted as an observer*
- ✦ *The IHO was represented by the National Hydrographer of the host country at the 3 following GEO Plenary Meetings in South Africa (GEO-IV, 2007), Romania (GEO-V, 2008) and the USA (GEO-VI, 2009)*
- ✦ *The IHO did not participate in the subsequent Plenary Meetings*
- ✦ *The GEBCO programme was not involved in any meeting*



Relations de l'OHI avec GEO

IHO relations with GEO

- ✦ *The current GEO work plan (2012-2015) does not include any explicit reference to the provision and improvement of marine geospatial data infrastructures (MSDI) but there is a direct connection with the provision of MSDI through two tasks:*
 - *IN-02 - Earth Data Sets*
 - *SB-01 - Oceans and Society: Blue Planet.*
- ✦ *The maritime dimension of GEO is mainly represented by the “Blue Planet initiative”, endorsed at GEO-IX and sponsored notably by the IOC GOOS Project Office and the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO - forum created in 1999 by the directors and leaders of major oceanographic institutions around the world to promote global oceanography)*
- ✦ *The bathymetric component seems absent or taken for granted.*



Relations de l'OHI avec GEO

IHO relations with GEO

- ✦ *The 10th GEO Plenary Meeting and 3rd GEO Ministerial Summit were convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 January 2014 to decide on the future of GEO at the end of the initial ten-year period (2005-2015).*
- ✦ *Considering the importance of that milestone, the Directing Committee decided to participate in order to:*
 - *Promote the activities of the IHO, notably in relation with the GEBCO programme and the development of MDSI*
 - *Raise awareness on the need to improve global coverage and availability of survey*
 - *Promote coordinating and bridging the various programs and initiatives dealing with the observation of the Earth at the national, regional and international levels;*
 - *Strengthen the engagement with developing countries in line with the development of the IHO capacity building programme.*



Relations de l'OHI avec GEO

IHO relations with GEO

- ✦ *At GEO-X, the IHO submitted:*
 - *a report on IHO activities relevant to GEO which was presented in the Plenary Meeting*
 - *two statements which were delivered during the Ministerial Summit*
- ✦ *The participation of the IHO in GEO is in line with two strategic directions:*
 - *Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the IHO*
 - *Raise global awareness of the importance of hydrography*
- ✦ *It comes under task 1.1.20 of the 2013-2017 Work Programme (Co-operation with other organizations when their agendas have relevance to the programme of the IHO).*



Situation actuelle - *Current developments*

- ✦ *Evaluation of the first phase of the implementation of GEOSS (May 2014 to May 2015)*
 - *the GEO Secretariat invited GEO members and participating organizations to nominate members for the Evaluation Team*
 - *Member States which might have been interested in nominating an expert were informed by IHO CL 26/2014*
- ✦ *7th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium - Tokyo, Japan, 26-28 May 2014*
 - *Theme: "Benefits for Society from GEOSS evolution - towards addressing sustainable development goals".*
 - *Topic relevant to the IHO: "Ocean observation and society - towards realization of Blue Planet in the Asia-Pacific Region" (link with the theme for WHD 2014)*
 - *The Chair of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) that include countries of the Asia-Pacific region (EAHC, NIOHC, RSAHC and SWPHC) were invited to consider being represented*



Situation actuelle - *Current developments*

- ✦ *Decision 21 of IRCC-6: to recognize the importance of GEO and to continue participation in GEO related events by all means, with the IHB in the lead but involving the RHCs, MSs and GEBCO.*
- ✦ *IHO participation in the GEO Data Sharing Working Group (GEO/DSWG) under review in liaison with the GEBCO Guiding Committee*
- ✦ *GEO-XI, Libreville, Gabon, 13-14 November 2014*
 - *Opportunity to focus on GEO-related activities in Africa*
 - *A presentation of IHO activities/issues in Africa would be welcome*
 - *Five RHCs are concerned: EAHC, MBSHC, NIOHC and SAIHC*
 - *Nominations for representing the IHO expected by 19 Sept. (MBSHC & SAIHC have declined)*





For more information / *Pour en savoir plus* :
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