

**EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EAtHC)
9th Conference, Dakar, Senegal, 6-8 December 2006**

CAPACITY BUILDING REPORT

By Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA (Chile), IHB Director

1. Membership:

14 MSs are represented in this Committee. France is a Member and certainly voices the interests of the EAtHC Members. The Committee has Captain Barritt (UK) as Vice-Chairman and Captain Gorziglia (Chile), IHB Director, as Chairman.

2. Meetings:

Since the last EAtHC The IHO Capacity Building Committee (IHO CBC) has had three meetings:

- CBC2 (Fiji, 11 and 12 November, 2004).
- CBC3 (Colombia, 01 and 02 June, 2005).
- CBC4 (Mozambique, 07 and 08 June, 2006).

The next meeting of the IHO CBC will be held in Karachi, Pakistan, in June 2007.

3. Main achievement during the period :

- a) IHO publication M-2: A group studied this publication and recommended updates. A new version of the publication was prepared and it was circulated to MSs attached to CL 62/2004.
- b) IHO Capacity Building Strategy: The Committee produced a draft IHO CB Strategy document encapsulating philosophy, vision for the IHO CBC's work. The document was endorsed by MSs and entered in force 01 March 2005. This document is currently under revision by an ad hoc Correspondence WG.
- c) CB Management Plan: The Management Plan integrates all the requirements, projects and initiatives identified by the RHCs. The first issue of the Plan emerged from the second meeting of the IHO CBC and was circulated attached to CL 88/2004. The latest version, arising from the decisions of the 4th IHO CBC meeting has been included in CL 58/2006.
- d) CB Work Program: The Committee prepared and agreed on the Capacity Building Work Programme for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Each year these programmes are included in the IHO General WP and approved by IHO MSs.
- e) Capacity Building Fund: The Committee tasked its Chairman to take actions to establish an IHO Capacity Building Fund. A proposal was prepared by the Chairman and submitted to MSs through CL 87/2004. The proposal received strong support (over two-third positive vote was cast) and the fund was established in February 2005.
- f) RHC submissions: The Committee developed a presentation format for all the requests of capacity building submitted by RHCs to the Committee, aiming to standardize the submissions as well as to facilitate the evaluation and selection procedure.
- g) CBC WP 2008-2012: The Committee requested all RHC's to communicate their most urgent capacity building needs in order to have them included in the 2008-2012 CB Program, a sub set of the IHO WP. The EAtHC needs have been received.

- h) Guidelines for Assessment Criteria: a document called “Guidelines for Assessment Criteria” was prepared by the Committee to provide a process for the identification of appropriate capability during technical assessment visits. This document constitutes an annex to the CB Strategy.
- i) S-55: The “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide” has been kept updated based on the information received at the IHB. RHC Chairmen have been asked to encourage the provision of missing data and to keep the information updated.

During its work, the CBC has received guidance on the way both the academic and the industrial sector could contribute to IHO CB efforts. Their views have been important in the development of the CB strategy. Within RHC, actions are in progress to build closer relationships with major donor agencies and regional maritime organisations.

The Committee has been well aware of the United Nations Resolutions that recognize the work of the IHO and encourage intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts.

The IMO has been briefed on IHO CB efforts through briefs to NAV and MSC. The IMO Regional Coordinator for Southern and Eastern Africa joined the SAIHC Technical Visit Team for advisory visits in his region, and his participation greatly facilitated access and impact. The IHOCBC will continue to pursue the closest possible teamwork with IMO.

The intensified efforts of the IHO in the field of CB are evident. The following activities are highlighted:

- Technical Visits:

Technical Visits have been paid to the following 52 countries: Anguilla(*), Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Belize, British Virgin Islands(*), Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cap Verde, Cayman Is (*), DR of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Montserrat(*), Panama, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, R of Congo, St Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos(*), Uganda and Vietnam.

Note: (*) Corresponds to British Overseas Territories.

- Technical Workshops:

The first Technical Workshop, on MSI and GMDSS, was organized following the analysis of the reports of the technical visits made to countries in the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC). This was held in conjunction with the 2004 EAtHC Conference, in Brest, France.

Thereafter, in conjunction with the CBC meetings, Technical Workshops on the establishment of the first phase of hydrographic capacity were organized to address representatives of the countries of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC 2004), of the Meso American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC 2005), and of the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC 2006).

- Technical Seminars:

A Seminar was organized and held in 2005, at the IMA, in Trieste, Italy, for the countries of the EAtHC, with the objective of raising awareness at governmental level of the importance

of hydrography to safety of navigation and national economic development, and to explore initiatives of common regional interest.

A similar Seminar was offered in Acapulco, Mexico during October 2006.

- **Courses:**

Courses have been mainly based on the IMA capabilities. Unfortunately due to a reorganization process in the IMA, only a couple of courses have been delivered since the establishment of the CBC, but the situation should change very soon.

Other courses, partially funded by the CB Fund, have been multi-beam courses benefiting 10 students, one from each country: Chile, China, Ecuador, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Rep. of Korea, Thailand and Uruguay.

An experimental Practical Basis Hydrographic Course was held in late August 2006 in Nicaragua, for countries in the region. The Course received partial support from the CB Fund, as is a Seminar on Electronic Chart for countries in the SEPHC region that also was offered in late August 2006.

4. Conclusions:

- a) The establishment of the IHOCBC has been an excellent decision. CBC Members have worked hard to set principles and procedures with a strong “team work” approach. The CBC is an effective and efficient body of the IHO.
- b) The establishment of the IHO CB Fund has also been an excellent idea, as limited but very important activities have been executed, providing opportunities to raise the awareness on the importance of hydrography and its great influence on socio-economic development.
- c) The success and effectiveness of the IHO CB effort depend on several factors, but the most important ones are in the hands of the RHCs. RHCs should do their best to identify and determine the priorities amongst their regional needs.
- d) The new version of the publication S-55, in its digital format, constitutes an excellent tool for, among other tasks, the identification of capacity building needs. Every effort must be made to keep it updated.

5. Especial message to the EAHC Members:

After all the CB effort that IHO and its bodies have made so far ...“ What is next????”

There is a strong need to follow-up the initiatives identified, and therefore please take note on the following:

- a) Give adequate priority to the establishment of National Hydrographic Committees.
- b) Identify national and regional most sound needs.
- c) Make use of existing regional bodies, to raise awareness about hydrography and to produce the basis of regional projects with hydrographic .
- d) Take advantage of the opportunities IHO offer to improve hydrographic capabilities.
- e) Improve communication with IHB.

Thanks,

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Chairman IHOCBC