Annual Report on the IHO (International Hydrographic Organisation) Activities

After the 17th International Hydrographic Conference in May 2007, the IHB is implementing the decisions taken at the Conference. The status of the implementation is reported on the website [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int).

A small number of items is selected and reported below.

1. IHO is reviewing her Strategic Plan. The intention is to present the draft Strategic Plan and any related recommendations to the Member States no later than January 2009.

2. On the Rules for procedures of IHO Conferences: replace paragraphs (c) and (d):
   
   (c) Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations whose activities are connected with those of the Bureau: one or exceptionally two observers each. A list of such organizations shall be notified by the Bureau to all Members so that they may have an opportunity to raise objections or suggest additions.
   
   (d) National organizations of Members which have had or are likely to have occasion to collaborate with the Bureau, under the conditions prescribed in the preceding paragraph.

   So as to read:

   (c) Inter-governmental organizations with which an agreement or special arrangement has been made: one or exceptionally two observers each; and
   (d) Non-governmental international organizations with which the Organization has established appropriate relationships in accordance with the Guidelines for the Accreditation of Nongovernmental International Organizations: one or exceptionally two observers each.

   So:

   It is clear that IAIN is in the new category described under (d). IAIN is in the list of these NGIOs on the website of the IHO.

3. It is the intention of IHO to have adequate worldwide coverage of ENCs in 2010, see the decision below

**DECISION No. 20 (PRO 23) - RESOLUTION ON ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHART COVERAGE AVAILABILITY CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY**

The Conference approved the following Resolution:

The 17th International Hydrographic Conference,

- Noting considerable increase in ENC coverage achieved in the past years,
- Paying attention to comments from maritime stakeholders world-wide on ENCs,
- Considering results of discussion in the WEND,
- Noting also IMO considerations of mandatory carriage requirement of ECDIS
- Noting that still considerable efforts are required to satisfy the ENC coverage needed for mandatory ECDIS carriage,
- Recognizing Member States’ responsibility for acceleration in the production of ENCs to improve coverage,
- Recognizing also necessity for developing cooperative relationship to improve the Member States’ capability of producing ENCs,
Further recognizing importance of RHCs’ initiative as the main role players in improving coverage and consistency, Concludes that: Member States should adhere and comply with the WEND Principles in order for the IHO, through its Member States, and the regional and worldwide bodies in which they come together, to achieve adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENCs by 2010.

Note:
WEND IHO Worldwide Navigational Chart Data Base Committee

4. IHO supports strongly IMO for mandatory carriage requirement of ECDIS, see note below

DECISION No. 21 (PRO 21) - RESOLUTION ON ENC COVERAGE IN RELATION TO ECDIS CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS
The Conference endorsed the following resolution:
The IHO:
- Realizing that even in the paper chart world, a complete coverage of high quality nautical charts does not exist.
- Furthermore realizing that it is not realistic to expect a complete worldwide coverage of ENCs in all waters in the foreseeable future.
- Recognizing that shipping is more congested in some areas and routes around the world than others.
- Consequently also recognizes the need to identify congested areas and as a minimum ensure the earliest possible coverage of ENCs in those areas.
- Having considered the report from DNV on the “Effect of ENC Coverage on ECDIS Risk Reduction” establishing that: a significant coverage of suitable ENCs are already available to the international shipping community, and the implementation of ECDIS will enhance safety at sea, and the implementation of ECDIS is found to be cost efficient for new as well as existing ships above a certain size.
- Noting that the Conference reaffirmed its commitments to the WEND Principles.

- Strongly supports the efforts by IMO to introduce mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS, emphasizing that: A significant coverage of ENCs is already in place and will be further improved by 2010, as indicated in the DNV report and supported by IHO assessments, and secondly that Acceptance of mandatory carriage requirements will further accelerate the production of ENCs

5. An extraordinary IHO Conference will be held in June 2009.

DECISION No. 38 - DATES OF THE 4th EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCE - 2009
The Conference agreed to hold the Fourth Extraordinary I.H. Conference in the first week of June 2009. The dates will be announced to Member States after the IHB D.C. consultation with the Monegasque Government.

Jac Spaans
12 March 2008