

**“IHO-ROK CAT. A ALUMNI WORKSHOP” – BUSAN,  
Republic of Korea, 12 to 14 September 2023**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 3.3.9.1	Maintain relations with KHOA for the management of Cat A Course at University of Southern Mississippi (Funded by ROK fund for Cat A Course at USM)

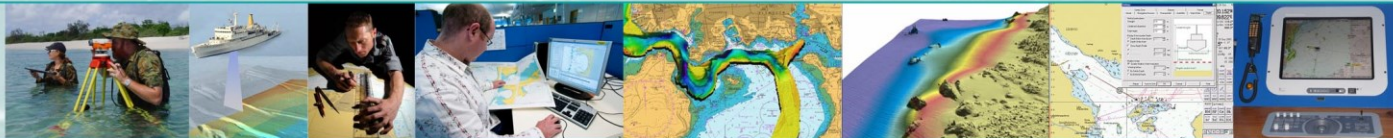
The 1<sup>st</sup> IHO-ROK Cat. A Alumni Workshop was held at the Paradise Hotel, Busan, Republic of Korea from 12 to 14 September 2023 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the ROK and the IHO on support for the IHO Capacity Building programme. The Workshop was hosted by the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) of the Republic of Korea. 12 Alumni from 9 IHO Member States (Bangladesh, Estonia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand), Prof. Stephan Howden, Director Hydrographic Science Research Center of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and Mr. Alberto Costa Neves, former Coordinator Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science at the USM, participated at the Workshop. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.



*Director General KHOA Lee and IHO Director Sinapi delivering their keynote speech*

Director General KHOA Mr Cheoljo Lee opened the Workshop, welcoming the participants and thanking the IHO, the USM and the Alumni for their presence. He highlighted the importance of the cooperation between the institutions involved in the management of the Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science at the USM. He underlined that the Workshop represents an outstanding example of how much the IHO and the ROK invest in education and training, supporting the international hydrographic community.





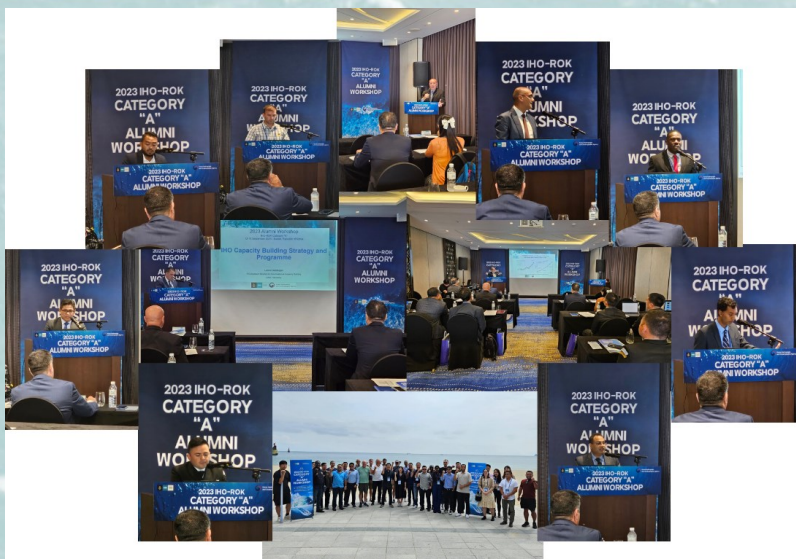
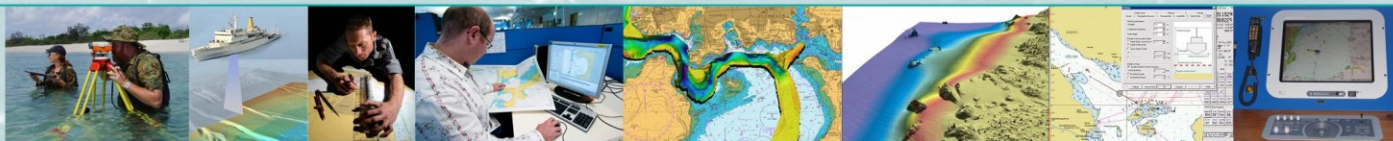
IHO Director Luigi Sinapi thanked the Republic of Korea and KHOA for the continuous and unique support to the International Hydrographic Community and the IHO Capacity Building programme, and for the outstanding organization of the Workshop. He affirmed that the IHO-ROK Program of Technical Cooperation is referenced in the hydrographic training at the international level, capable not only of keeping up with the times, but also and above all of responding to the ever-increasing demands for training and work coming from the civil and military world, in line with the need to respect the marine environment and those challenges that the humanity is facing in the field of Climate Change and a wise and respectful use of the Ocean.



*Participants at the IHO-ROK Cat. A Alumni workshop*

Following the opening ceremony, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Workshop featured a series of presentations on the “KHOA and its main activities in the hydrographic and oceanographic fields”, with a special focus on capacity building activities, the “IHO Capacity Building Strategy and Programme”, and the “IHO-ROK Hydrographic Science Capacity Building at the Joint International Applied Science Programme (JIHASP) at the University of Southern Mississippi”. Following this, Mr. Costa Neves introduced the 12 Alumni present at the Workshop, inviting them to report on their educational and work experiences during the Master's programme at USM and at the national Hydrographic Services where they work. This session was a special gathering, as it allowed to discuss the different experiences in the fields of Hydrography and Nautical Cartography at national, regional and international level by young Hydrographers coming from all over the world.





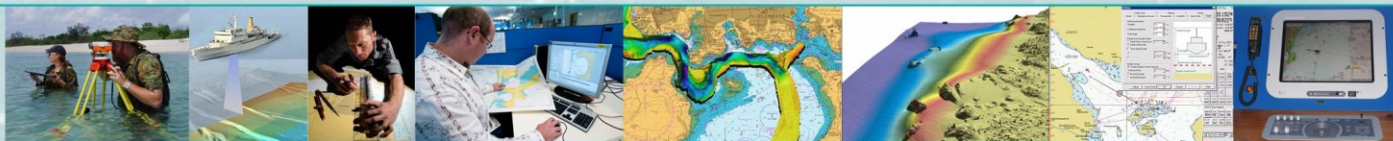
*Participants at the Workshop inside and outside the Paradise hotel in Busan (ROK)*

The morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Workshop focused on technical presentations about the “Mauritius Hydrographic Service”, the “National Hydrographic Office challenges and future directions”, the surveys using “Photogrammetry and LIDAR techniques and the comparison of the data obtained”, the “S-100 application status and plan in hydro and maritime safety domain in Korea” and finally the “Importance of MSDI”. The presentations fuelled a constructive discussion among those present, highlighting the differences in approaches and views of representatives of Hydrographic Services.



*Alumni on cultural visits to Busan and the banquet offered by the KHOA*





The afternoon and evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Workshop and the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> day were dedicated to visiting the cultural attractions in and around Busan and the banquet offered by the KHOA. These moments represented a unique opportunity for the students to consolidate interpersonal relationships in the spirit of the most genuine international cooperation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> IHO-ROK Cat. A Alumni Workshop marked the anniversary of 10 years of an international unparalleled worldwide experience in the field of hydrographic training, as well as represented a symbolic but extremely important moment for the Alumni to establish a network and confirm once again the validity of a story of success, counting already in total 23 Alumni from 14 IHO Member States.

