

**TECHNICAL VISIT FROM THE IHB REPRESENTATIVES TO
LITHUANIA**

10 JULY 2006

I.- General Information.

Program 2 “Capacity Building” of the IHO Work Program 2003/2007 included as Tasks 1.3.1. “Membership enlargement of the Baltic Sea H.C.” and 2. 1. 7 “Carry out visits of Technical Cooperation to the Baltic Countries”, as well as Objective 2. 2. 1, “Encourage entry of new Member States”.

In late 2005, the IHB sent letters to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, informing the authorities of these countries about the intention to pay a technical visit to them, in accordance with the Work Programme approved by the Member States. Positive replies were received from the three countries.

The IHB prepared the technical visits, which took place from 3 to 11 July 2006.

II.- Terms of Reference for the visits

1. IHB Visit Team:

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director responsible of Capacity Building matters and Captain Federico BERMEJO, Professional Assistant in charge of Capacity Building and Training.

2. General Objective:

To discuss technical matters of common interest to the three countries and the IHO.

3. Specific Objectives

- a. Meet with the Hydrographic Authorities of the three countries and provide a presentation covering the following aspects:
 1. The International Hydrographic Organization. Structure and Membership. Present work program and budget, and its development.
 2. The International situation of hydrography.
 3. Capacity Building and Training & Education opportunities in Hydrography.
 4. Hydrographic application different from safety to navigation. Benefits of establishing a National Hydrographic Committee.

- b. Note the structure and development of the countries, especially in the following areas:
 1. The Hydrographic Services. Responsibilities and organization.
 2. Process in place to follow new Chapter V of SOLAS, Regulation 9. Identification of priority needs.
 3. Present situation concerning hydrographic surveys, nautical charts and MSI. Updating of the IHO publication S-55 “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide”.
 4. Experiences gained in the establishment of Hydrographic Services, cartographic production and distribution (including ENC’s), bilateral agreements with other countries and services provided to other organizations.

5. Meet with other National related Authorities to whom the IHB could make a presentation about the IHO, aiming raising awareness on the importance of hydrography and its contribution to the development of initiatives of socio-economic impact; the requirements of SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 9 and the need to develop national plans to meet these obligations;

TECHNICAL VISIT TO THE MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION OF LITHUANIA



The Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration and his staff with the IHO representatives

I; Programme of the visits

10 July

- Meeting at the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration
- Visit and sailing around Klaipeda harbour on board the hydrographic vessel “VARUNA”
- Summary of the visit

II. Authorities participating in the visits

Mr. Robertinas TARASEVICIUS	Deputy Director Maritime Lithuanian MSA
Mr. Viktoras LIULYS	Head Lighthouse and Hydrographical Department.
Mr. Drasis PRAKAS	Head Hydrographical Office of the Lighthouse and Hydrographical Department
Mr. Mindaugas ZAKARAUSKAS	Deputy Head, Hydrographical Office of the Lighthouse and Hydrographical Department
Mr. Mindaugas CESNAUSKIS	Maritime Safety Administration

III. Presentations

The presentation made by the IHB Director included the Mission, objectives and structure of the IHO, mentioning the next International Hydrographic Conference in May 2007 and the IHO Work Programme. He referred specifically to the latest resolutions of the UN and IMO, in accordance with which, maritime countries are obliged to provide hydrographic services and are invited to comply with the regulations of the IHO. The MSA was invited to participate on IHO technical business, especially within the IHO Baltic Sea Regional Hydrographic Commission and to take advantage of the IHO experience gathered in accomplishing international regulations. Becoming full IHO member was also encouraged to be updated on the worldwide progress of hydrography and to identify needs and priorities in capacity building and in new technologies

A presentation on the organization of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration was given by the Deputy Director who also announced a scheduled tour on the port of Klaipeda on board the hydrographic vessel "VARUNA".

IV. Organization of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration

The Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration (LMSA) is an institution within the system of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania as an independent institution responsible for implementing the Government's maritime safety policy. It was projected by the Law on Maritime Safety, adopted in 2000. It became fully operational in June 2002, when the Minister of Transports and Communications approved regulations for the newly established institution. This law was amended in 2005, enabling the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration with new possibilities to seek set tasks and goals. Its strategic goals are the implementation of the maritime safety policy and the development of national maritime safety policy.

The main functions of LMSA are prescribed in Maritime Safety Law, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Among them, the following should be highlighted:

- Organization of the implementation of state responsibilities protecting and saving human life and environment at sea;
- Implementation of the requirements of the national and international instruments on maritime safety and pollution from ships prevention by carrying out supervision and monitoring of activities related thereof (Implementory).
- Composition of the State hydrographic picture in territorial sea waters and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania
- Execution of hydrographic and geodesic surveys,
- Collection and storage of hydrographic, cartographic and gedetic data.
- Production and publication of national nautical charts and publications.

The LMSA has a survey vessel, the "VARUNA", with modern equipment for the execution of hydrographic surveys.

V. Subjects of special consideration

Some concern about the possibilities of training in multi-beam echo sounder techniques was raised. Lithuania is already participating as an associated member in the Baltic Sea

Hydrographic Commission, and the government is considering joining the IHO as a full member and it is expected to achieve this action in 2008.

The LMSA has expressed its willingness to further develop the hydrographic and cartographic capabilities and a Technical Visit to assess the status of Hydrography and Cartography and to identify future requirements has been identified.

It is therefore recommended that the LMSA requests the IHB, through the Chairman of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Latvia), to organize a Technical Visit to assess its status of hydrographic and cartographic development

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1) The Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration carries out efficiently its duties and has the adequate technical and administrative support from its Government as well as modern equipment available. The present cartographic portfolio comprises 7 nautical charts.
- 2) It is recommended to continue the procedures for application of IHO membership. The IHB will provide the necessary support to the Lithuanian authorities in the administrative procedure to become an IHO Member State.
- 3) It is recommended to schedule long-term training through international training institutions available and also to organize internal short refreshment courses. It is recommended to make use of the support offered by the IHO Capacity Building Committee, through the Chairman of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Latvia), to fund the establishment of some of these short courses.
- 4) Information about multi-beam echo sounder courses will be made available by the IHB.

The IHB is grateful to the authorities of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration for the excellent organization of the visit and the kind hospitality offered to the IHB representatives.