

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
(ABLOS)**

International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco, 8 September 1999

Attendees

Prof. Petr Vanicek Chairman(IAG) Canada
Mr. Chris Carleton Vice-Chairman (IHO) UK
Mr. Bjorn G. Harsson (IAG) Norway
Dr. Tadahiko Katsura (IHO) Japan
Mr. Jack Weightman (IAG) UK
Prof. Chris Rizos (IAG) Australia
Rear Admiral Neil Guy (IHO) IHB
Mr. Ron MacNab (IOC) Canada
Mr. Alexei Zichenko (UN DOALOS) UN

Regrets

Dr Jin Xianglong (IOC) People's Republic of China

Observers

Mr. Daniel Rio (CLCS) France

Welcome

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He asked the participants to introduce themselves and then gave a short explanation of the rules governing ABLOS. He introduced the draft agenda and asked for comments and proposals for modifications; he pointed out that he would not ask for a formal adoption of the agenda as it would evolve during the meeting.

Review of the Minutes of the 5th ABLOS Meeting

2. The Minutes had already been adopted by correspondence. Various action items were reviewed; all were either completed or in hand. The relationships and roles of different bodies (ABLOS, GALOS, DOALOS, CLCS) were discussed in great detail; this discussion was triggered mainly by the diagram on p. 6 of the Minutes and the INSMAP 98 paper tabled by Harsson. It was agreed that the diagram should be interpreted as a first attempt and that proposals for enhancements were welcome. Once this issue had been clarified, this information should be put on the ABLOS WEB site in an easily understandable form.

New Edition of the TALOS Manual

3. It was agreed that this Manual needed reviewing and updating. An editorial board should be established to propose a new structure based on the present edition of the Manual; not too many persons should be involved. The new edition of the Manual should continue to address a wide audience (non-experts). The editorial board to be composed as follows:
 - Geodesy (Harsson to nominate a candidate via GALOS)
 - Marine geoscience (Macnab)
 - Hydrography (IHB)
 - Delimitation (Carleton)
 - GIS (IHB)

The Manual should become a permanent ABLOS agenda item. General support from ABLOS would be welcome (diagrams, comments ...)

ABLOS vis-à-vis GALOS

4. The Chairman outlined the history of the relationship, which has improved considerably with time; it seems to be commonly accepted that GALOS is the interface between IAG and ABLOS. "GALOS" conferences should be held under IAG, IUGG, ABLOS or other umbrellas.

ABLOS and IAG

5. The IAG will nominate candidates for ABLOS by 30 Nov. (Harsson). IHO membership to be reviewed as well (Guy). The ABLOS Secretariat has to be advised officially by IAG, IHO and IOC of nominated representatives.

ABLOS and IOC

6. TOR have to be amended (see below). Two IOC representatives have been nominated Mr Ron Macnab and Dr Jin Xianglong, the third one will be nominated in the near future. Formal letter from IOC advising ABLOS of acceptance of intention to co-sponsor is required.

(Post meeting Notes:

IOC have nominated their third member of ABLOS Dr Samuel Betah.

A letter was sent by the IOC to the IHO, reference IOC/UNCLOS/HL on 17 October 1996 agreeing to co-sponsor ABLOS.)

7. ABE-LOS and ABLOS potential overlap and/or conflict (names ?) need clarification. Macnab (IOC) will informally check with IOC; then IHB (Guy) will draft a letter to IOC SG asking for info/clarification, circulate the draft to ABLOS for comments, and then send to IOC; IOC response to be brought to the attention of ABLOS.

Terms of Reference

8. The TOR were reviewed and amended with much useful input from DOALOS representative. The revised TOR are annexed to these minutes.

ABLOS and CLCS

9. The DOALOS representative gave an overview of recent CLCS activities; development of technical and scientific guidelines, review of training programmes. Glossary to be developed by the Secretariat. ABLOS may wish to provide technical and scientific help. Open Sessions of CLCS will be held in early May 2000.
10. ABLOS can help by trying to achieve the widest possible distribution of material (e.g. manuals, papers) and general info (e.g. WEB), by:
 - continuing to provide advice;
 - dissemination of knowledge;
 - developing publications (manuals, glossaries);
 - organizing conferences;
 - providing fora for CLCS to present views

ABLOS Conference

11. IHB (Guy) gave a short situation report. Programme to be re-worked; registration deadline should be introduced for future Conferences. Instructions for authors to be prepared by Rizos and Rohde. Deadline for submitting manuscripts for publication set to September 30.

Election of Vice-Chairman

12. Present Vice-Chairman will automatically become Chairman after this meeting. New Vice-Chairman to be elected. Macnab proposed and elected with one abstention. Macnab accepted.

WEB Page and Secretarial Services

13. Enhancements of ABLOS WEB page discussed (e.g. links, contents). Rizos will produce a list of questions, ideas etc. and will circulate that list to generate discussion. Scope of secretarial services discussed; see revised TOR.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. Harsson tabled and asked for distribution of a modified recommendation of Resolution No. 3 from Bali 1996, prepared by GALOS. He also distributed copies of ISO TC211 Part 11 "Spatial referencing by coordinates" for information.

Next Meeting

15. Discussed whether to be held in New York before or after CLCS meeting. Tentatively agreed on 24-25 August or October 2000. To be pursued by the new Chairman.
16. The organisation of a Technical Meeting in 2001 discussed. Possible venues are Japan (only in 2003 or later), Norway, or Brazil. To be checked and pursued by the new Chairman.
17. The Chairman closed the meeting at 18.00