

Report of ABLOS to HSSC 9 6-10 November 2017, Ottawa, Canada

Presented by Professor Sunil Bisnath (Canada)
on behalf of Dr Niels Andersen (ABLOS Chair)



Principal activities and achievements

- The 23rd Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the Ramada Hotel in Seoul on 26 and 27 October. It was followed by a seminar titled '*Roles of the Law of the Sea and the Hydrography in Asian Region*' on 28 October.
- ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present, as well as two invited observers from Qatar.



Principal activities and achievements

- The meeting continued its preparations for the 9th ABLOS Conference, which is planned to be held in Monaco on 10 and 11 October 2017.
- The meeting discussed the revisions of Chapter 3 to Edition 5.0.0 of IHO publication C-51. The Editorial Board, under the leadership of Mr Chris Carleton, will review the draft revision in preparation for submission to the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee for its endorsement and subsequent IHO and IAG approval.
- Japan agreed to provide the revised Chapter 3 text for review by the Editorial Board to progress this work.



Principal activities and achievements

- ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.
- The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Board, as a catalyst for in depth discussions on the future of ABLOS and its role. The status of current Board members was reviewed.



Principal activities and achievements

- The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS, noting there was no requirement for amendments at present.
- They agreed that the future of ABLOS and its work should be considered by all members before the next business meeting. It was noted that the Terms of Reference should be used as the basis for a review of the tasks set and the work undertaken.



Principal activities and achievements

- The ABLOS meeting was followed by a Law of the Sea Seminar, which was hosted by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) and the Hydrographic Society of Korea.
- The seminar was attended by approximately 45 delegates from across the region, including China and Japan as well as representatives from France and Qatar and a wide selection of Korean government ministries, technical authorities and universities.



Principal activities and achievements

- The 24th Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 9 and 12 October. It was followed by the 9th ABLOS Conference titled '*UNCLOS: Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS*' on 10-11 October.
- ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present, as well as invited observers from Qatar and the UK Hydrographic Office.



Principal activities and achievements

- The meeting continued its preparations for the 9th ABLOS Conference.
- The meeting discussed the revisions of Chapter 3 to Edition 5.0.0 of IHO publication C-51. The Editorial Board, under the leadership of Mr Chris Carleton, will review the draft revision in preparation for submission to the 10th meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee for its endorsement and subsequent IHO and IAG approval.
- Japan agreed to provide the revised Chapter 3 text for review by the Editorial Board to progress this work.



Principal activities and achievements

- France agreed to edit and proof the contract translation of C-51 and to include the revised chapter 3 to finalise a French Edition 6.0.0.
- Chile agreed to revise the Spanish 4th Edition to include all subsequent revisions and amendments to create a Spanish Edition 6.0.0



Principal activities and achievements

- ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.
- The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Board, and proposed draft amendments which will be submitted to the HSSC10 for consideration.



Principal activities and achievements

- The status of current Board members was reviewed. The ABLOS noted that two IHO appointed members were due to end their terms in October 2018 and three AIG appointed members in July 2019. All members were requested to advise whether they would be available for re-nomination by their respective host organizations or whether they were aware of suitable candidates to fill the forthcoming vacancies.



Principal activities and achievements

- The 9th ABLOS Conference was attended by approximately 68 delegates. 24 different States were represented, namely Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA.
- The opening key note address was given by Mrs Kristina Maria Gjerde, Senior High Seas Policy Advisor to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Marine and Polar Programme.



Principal activities and achievements

- The Conference included 20 presentations covering a wide variety of topics and issues in relation with the theme “*UNCLOS: Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS*”.
- The presentations on various aspects of the Law of the Sea generated numerous questions and comments in plenary and much discussion in the margins during the breaks.



Principal activities and achievements

- On completion of the ABLOS Conference, Dr Niels Andersen (Denmark) assumed the role of Chair and Mrs Izabel King Jeck (Brazil) was elected as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the next Business Meeting would take place in Doha, Qatar, 22-25 October 2018



Major tasks of future work programme

- Work commenced on preparations for 10th ABLOS Conference in Monaco scheduled for 8-9 October 2018 under the theme “ABLOS X” to recognise the 10th anniversary Conference.
- Engagement with Project Team developing S-121 will be maintained through continued representation at future meetings of the Project Team.



Problems Encountered

- It is noted that 5 of the 8 ABLOS members will complete their second terms between October 2018 and July 2019; it is of concern that, whilst there are 4 IHO observers, there are no IAG observers gaining experience potentially to progress as IAG appointed members.



Action requested of HSSC

- a. Note this report
- b. Note excellent IHO Secretariat support to ABLOS
- c. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- d. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B

