

**10TH MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO IRCC10
GOA, INDIA, 4-6 JUNE 2018**

Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHO Secretariat.

Status of Membership of the IHO

1. Seychelles has been 88th member of the IHO during the report period. The IHO Secretariat continues its campaign to recruit new member States to the IHO.

Suspended Member States

2. In 1 January 2018 the Dominican Republic, which had been suspended since 1983, was reinstated as Member State. Serbia and Congo remain suspended. IHO Secretariat is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

Diplomatic Engagement

3. The Secretary-General and Directors are continuing their programme of visits to brief high officials of non-Member States on the global status of hydrography and the relevance of the IHO to non-Member States. This is being done through targeted in-country visits and briefings and through visits to diplomatic delegations in Paris, London and New York when convenient.

4. The Secretary-General and Directors, in consultation with individual Member State representatives, brief relevant diplomatic missions in order to raise the profile of the respective national hydrographic service and the importance of hydrography.

5. The Secretary-General and Directors provide briefings to the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Monaco to enable Monaco's diplomatic service to better assist the IHO in maximising levels of awareness of hydrography and the IHO at the highest diplomatic levels, particularly in the UN and through the diplomatic services.

IHO GIS Data Base - Progress Report

See document IRCC10-11A.

Outcomes of the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council

6. The main outcomes of the 1st meeting of the IHO Council were reported in IHO CL 55/2017. Also, please see document IRCC10-08A.

7. The second meeting of the IHO Council is scheduled to take place in London, UK, from 9 to 11 October 2018. The preparation of this meeting has already started, in liaison with the host country. It can be noted that in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Council, the deadline for submission of proposals by IHO Member States is 9 July 2018, while comments on proposals to be included in the Red Book for the Council will be expected by 31 July 2018.

IHO Outreach

8. World Hydrography Day.

The theme of World Hydrography Day 2017 (WHD-2017) was "*Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways - more important than ever*" (CL 61/2016 dated 4 November refers). This theme was intended to focus attention on raise awareness of the current lack of comprehensive data to underpin many maps and charts of the seas and oceans. A number of WHD events were held by many of the IHO Member States.

Taking into account the discussions at the IHO Council meeting held in Monaco in October 2017, the theme of the World Hydrography Day for 2018 was announced by IHO CL 03/2018 which is:

“Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways”.

The theme provides the opportunity to raise awareness for a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor which is key to a broader understanding of natural processes and the success of all human activities in, on or under the sea - including safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, development of the blue economy and the sustainable use and governance of the marine domain.

9. Member States have been invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHO Secretariat any material that is created in support of national WHD-2018 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

10. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. However, some of the members of the editorial board need to be updated due to change of the roles of the board members. Chairs of the RHCs are requested to confirm and update their representatives.

Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

Capacity Building Programme

11. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme relatively decreased in 2017. Expenditure in the IHO 2017 CB Work Programme (625 952 Euros) was 18% smaller than the budget for the previous year. In 2017, 80% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for. Some of the activities that could not take place were postponed and transferred to the 2018 CB Work Programme for execution. The IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO budget and is supplemented by additional financial support from Member States (currently the Nippon Foundation of Japan, and the Republic of Korea) with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. However, considering the growing demands for IHO Capacity Building activities, more funds and contributions are required. The IHO Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations.

12. Member States are encouraged to nominate suitable candidates for long term CB courses which are follows:

- The IHO - Nippon Foundation CHART (Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training) Project that provides Category "B" training in Marine Cartography and Data Assessment at the UKHO, and is funded by the Nippon Foundation of Japan.
- Joint International Hydrographic Applied Science Program Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyor Program at the USM, in the USA funded by the ROK.
- New Category "B" Hydrographic Survey Program at the KHOA, in Busan, ROK funded by the ROK.

Crowdsourced Bathymetry

13. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC5, IRCC7 established the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowdsourced bathymetry (see IHO CL 42/2015). The CSBWG has developed the draft IHO publication B-12 – *IHO Guideline on Crowdsourced Bathymetry*, which has completed extensive stakeholder and IHO member State consultation. Edition 1.0.0 will be presented to IRCC10 for endorsement, prior to submission to IHO Council-2 and IHO member States for approval. It is considered that the publication will have a formal publication date of 1 January 2019. Work has commenced on the draft of Edition 2.0.0, taking into account a number of topics, for which additional time and investigation were identified as being required; additionally as a result of Decision C

1/31 to enlarging the scope of the tasking of the CSBWG, the CSBWG drafted revised ToRs for submission to IRCC10 (See document IRCC10-07G).

14. The web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowdsourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

GEBCO Project

15. The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project is a joint programme that is executed under the governance of the IHO and the IOC and directed by a Guiding Committee. GEBCO is the only long-term international project with a mandate to map the ocean floor. Through the work of its organs (Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM), a Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), a Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM)), GEBCO produces and makes available a range of bathymetric data sets and products, including gridded bathymetric data sets, the GEBCO Digital Atlas, the GEBCO world map, the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names. GEBCO maintains a comprehensive website at <http://www.gebco.net>. NIOHC member States are encouraged to support GEBCO activities and also nominate suitable candidates to the GEBCO Training Programme leading to a Graduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry at the University of New Hampshire, USA.

Seabed 2030 Project

16. Seabed 2030 is a new global project within the IHO-IOC GEBCO framework with the focused goal of producing the definitive, high-resolution bathymetric map of the entire World Ocean by the year 2030. The Nippon Foundation will contribute US\$ 18.5 million for the first ten years of the project. The aspiration is for Seabed 2030 to compile all available and newly collected bathymetric data into a high quality, high resolution digital model of the ocean floor and to promote international efforts to collect new data. The project seeks to encourage the data collectors and data managers of governmental, academic and private interests to work together to improve the quality of publicly-available grids of the ocean floor. This project is focused on the goal of compiling a high-resolution, openly available, Digital Bathymetric Model (DBM). This DBM should efficiently provide bathymetric information at an improved resolution to end users. The Seabed 2030 project has potential to create partnerships and cooperation between interested parties, significantly improving our understanding of the sea floor and empower sustainable ocean management in the coming century. Regional Hydrographic Commissions are encouraged to support the Seabed-2030 Project.

Action Requested of IRCC

17. IRCC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Confirm and update** the RHC representatives of the IHR Editorial Board, and
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.