

**MINUTES OF
THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
X MEETING**

LOMÉ, TOGO 3-5 DEC 2008

The X Meeting of the EAHC took place at the Hotel Sarakawa, Lome (Togo), from the 3rd to the 5th of December 2008, under the Chairmanship of the Director of the Spanish Hydrographic Office (IHM) Capt. Francisco Jose Perez Carrillo de Albornoz.

Representatives from four Member States (France, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain), four associated Members (Benin, Guinea, Senegal and Togo) and four observers (Gambia, Ghana, UK and USA), together with representatives of the Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa (PMAWCA) and the Regional Maritime University of Ghana attended the meeting. The International Hydrographic Bureau was represented by Capt. Hugo Gorziglia and Mr. Michel Huet.

Before starting with the working sessions, the opening ceremony took place under the Presidency of the Representative of the Ministry of Transportations of the Republic of Togo, the Director of Maritime Affairs, the Director of the Autonomous Port of Lomé, the Ambassador of France in Togo, the Director of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM), the Director of the IHB and the Director of the Spanish Hydrographic Office (IHM) and Chairman of the meeting.

During this opening ceremony a bilateral arrangement between France and Togo was signed and afterwards all the attendants to the ceremony visited the posters exhibition in the gardens of Hotel Sarakawa.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING.

The Chairman welcomed the participants, regretting the absence of some Members and highlighting the importance of the commitment acquired by Togo, with the signature of the Statutes of the RHC, the signature of the bilateral agreement with France during the opening ceremony and the creation of a national Hydrographic Committee, as a clear example to be followed by other countries in the region.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION.

Nothing significant to report, minor changes were made.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman tabled his report addressing the following principal subjects:

- Results of the XVII International Hydrographic Conference

- The entry of new Members and signature of bilateral arrangements
- Capacity Building issues
- The International Chart Catalogue of the Commission
- The Extension of the Continental Platform
- Outcomes from IHO and IMO working groups

4. DESIGNATION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

Nigeria representative kindly offered to act as Vice-chairman of the X EAtHC Conference. According to the Commission Statutes, Article 6.a, at the end of the Conference Nigeria will become Chairman of the EAtHC and remain in office until the end of the next Conference.

5. STATUS OF THE ACTION LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Status report was presented at the meeting by the Chairman. Closed actions were deleted during this first revision and it was agreed that the remaining ones will be renumbered during the final revision of the Action list at the end of the meeting. Most of the decisions were discussed under the appropriate agenda items.

6. IHB REPORT ON STATUS OF THE IHO WORKING PROGRAM

Major issues were presented by the IHB's Director, Capt. Gorziglia:

Since the last EAtHC Conference the most important event within the IHO has been the XVII International Hydrographic Conference that took place in May 2007. The most important decisions taken during that Conference were the entry into force starting in January 1st 2009 of the new structure of the IHO affecting Committees and Subcommittees, the creation of two working groups dealing with the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan and a second one to study the new edition of the IHB Staff Regulations. Also the Conference approved to ask CHRIS to establish two Working Groups, the first one on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters and the second one on the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI). Moreover it was decided to have an Extraordinary Conference in June 2009 to consider the reports of these Working Groups, except the one dealing with IHB Staff Regulations.

In a different area the Conference decided to achieve adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENC's by 2010 and to strongly support the efforts by IMO to introduce mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS.

With regard to Capacity Building, the Conference agreed to ask the Capacity Building Committee (CBC), in consultation with Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC), to consider the part-time allocation of personnel to act as Regional Staff Officers to assist those Chairmen of RHCs who have limited human resources in order to sustain the capacity building effort in their regions. Five RHCs were suggested, including the EAtHC. Another important decision by the Conference was the approval of the IHO Work Program and Budget for the period 2008-2012.

Capt Gorziglia revised the different programs in which the Work Program is divided, paying special attention to those issues related to Capacity Building effort and highlighting the collaboration that must exist between states and the IHO in order to develop the appropriate hydrographic infrastructure needed in the region.

7. COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES AND WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

7.a.1. Cooperation with Member states

First of all, France gave some comments about the bilateral agreement signed with Morocco last January in which a solid basement for the establishment of a complete hydrographic service in the latter country has been established.

7.a.2 National Reports

Only outstanding points from National Reports are listed below.

France

France, as responsible for the cartography for several nations in this region, reports on bathymetric and cartographic work in the region during the last few years, as well as perceived deficiencies in the participation of some nations in the GMDSS system for radio broadcasting of Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

France reports that Project CHARMER has been suspended due to the lack of necessary staff and financial support. This project was aimed at the establishment of a so-called “electronic highway” in the Gulf of Guinea, similar to the ones established in the Malacca Straits and South West Indian Ocean. Past experience dictates that such a project requires a skilled technician for coordination during three years approx, as well as determined support from all nations involved, and considering that these circumstances are not currently met in the area, it has been decided to temporarily suspend the project.

France reports on the development of a programme of photogrammetric flights over several nations in the region (Benin, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire and Togo) to update cartography produced by France and to make this cartographic information available to local authorities.

Nigeria

Nigeria reports on the establishment of a School of Hydrography, as well as their plans to improve the facilities for the GMDSS system with the establishment of two new NAVTEX stations in Lagos and Bonny, which will become operational soon. Answering to a query by France, Nigeria reports that cartographic responsibility over their coasts currently lies at the United Kingdom. Nigeria provides the UKHO with their bathymetric data for sounding review and quality control, checking of geodetic data etc. and then cartography is produced.

Portugal

Portugal provides a summary of their bathymetric and cartographic work in the area, as well as the high effectiveness of their Maritime Safety Information (MSI) dissemination system currently operated through the Internet website of their Hydrographic Office.

Spain

Spain reports on their cartographic update plan in the region, stressing the publication of two new purpose-2 electronic nautical charts linking the Iberian Peninsula to the Canary Islands, as well as other bigger scale charts covering the Canary Islands. Ongoing efforts to update hydrographic surveys of these islands are noted, as they are the oldest of all Spanish coasts, and plans to follow this line during the next few years are announced.

Senegal

Senegal reports on their customary working technique, in which hydrographic surveys are carried out following requests by the Dakar Port Authority, and then the resulting digital data, are submitted to SHOM, where cartography updating takes place. Also, they report on new equipment (for hydrographic and supporting purposes) that has been purchased or is currently in the process of being acquired.

Benin

Their report covers activities by the Hydrographic Service of the Autonomous Port of Cotonou during the last two years. They focus on the need for periodic bathymetric surveying of the approaches and basin of the Port of Cotonou due to constant sand deposits and coastal erosion in the area, which requires a major effort in terms of material and staff. Consequently, this report also covers the need to train staff to take over these bathymetric works. They report on the establishment of a national hydrographic committee and on the preparation of a bilateral arrangement for cooperation with France that they hope will be signed soon, as well as the establishment of a Cotonou Oceanographic Station with US funding.

Togo

Togo reports on the recent establishment of a national hydrographic committee, their signature of EAtHC statutes which allowed them to host this meeting, and the signature of a bilateral arrangement with France which will improve hydrographic capabilities in the country. SHOM will soon publish updated cartography covering Togolese seas using bathymetric data captured in 2004 by French Vessel "Laplace". Also, this report covers activities by the Directorate for Maritime Matters, the CHOSNM, the National Navy and the Directorate for the Environment.

Gambia

The Gambia reports that UKHO has the primary charting responsibilities for the Gambian sea area. Gambia Port Authority and Gambia Maritime Authority continue to play the role of passing survey and geodetic data for surveys conducted in their waters on to UKHO for urgent assessment and promulgation to international shipping.

Gambia Ports Authority has no survey capability other than lead-line checks along the berths and continues to rely on the UKHO. The Authority has just recruited another candidate to be trained in Hydrographic Survey. Their clear priority remains the definition and maintenance of routine survey program in the channel from the bar to Banjul. Training one surveyor at Category B Level will provide a capacity for national planning of surveys, for liaison and technical advice within government and for oversight and quality control of outsourcing.

UK

United Kingdom reports their willingness to accept any request from nations in the region to carry out hydrographic surveys of their waters. These requests will be considered by the UK Ministry of Defence with the relevant recommendations by UKHO. The high level of commitment of UKHO with such countries in the region over which they hold cartographic responsibilities is stressed, as well as their plans to carry on the same note in the future regarding Capacity Building. This report makes reference to training courses taught at UKHO and available for students from nations in this region.

Guinea Conakry

Their report conveys information regarding recent surveying in the approaches to the Port of Conakry and its main basin by private firms. Then, these data are made available for SHOM to update the corresponding cartography. Also, maritime safety information is submitted to the NAVAREA II Co-ordinator for dissemination, as they lack any NAVTEX stations. This report mentions that Guinea needs to restart hydrographic staff training in order to take over necessary hydrographic activity in the area as a consequence of major works to enlarge the Port of Conakry.

7.b. Cooperation with non-Member States

Once again, the bilateral arrangement signed by France and Togo at the start of the meeting is mentioned as a clear example of the collaboration with nations which are not full members of IHO. There are no further comments on this Agenda Item. ([Action EAthC 10-23 Permanent](#))

Associate Members are reminded again of the relevance of becoming full members of IHO and the advantages of it. It is agreed to create one Action Item for IHB to break down the cost/benefit ratio of full membership into IHO ([Action EAthC 10-24](#)) ([Action EAthC 10-5](#))

7.c Cooperation with International Organizations.

This subject is postponed and will be covered in Agenda Item 11.

8. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capt. Gorziglia as IHB representative and Chairman of the CBC presented the CBC report referring primarily to the last CBC meeting held in 2008.

(Element and Task numbering in these minutes are used as cross references with the CB Work Programme 2008)

8.a Capacity Building Management (Element 2.1)

Task 2.1.1 IHO Capacity Building Committee (IHO CBC)

Capt. Gorziglia talks about CBC Terms of Reference and about the membership of this Committee. Regarding this last issue the designation of the Regional CBC representative is discussed following the directions received in CL 69/08. The Chairman proposes France based on their membership to CBC, their commitment with CB issues and their excellent relations with French speaking countries in the region. Given that language should not be a problem in this role, with the support of Togo, Portugal and the UK, finally France is designated as Regional CBC Representative by acclamation.

It is clearly pointed out to all the attendees to the meeting that April the 1st must be considered as a deadline for receiving inputs to be discussed in the next CBC meeting.

Task 2.1.2 Capacity Building Fund (CB Fund)

At this point the funding sources for this subject were specified as well as the four ways of spending: technical assistance, training, financial support and initial support to technical projects. It was made clear that this fund will be used not only for helping IHO Member States but also to support Associated Members.

Task 2.1.3 Meetings with other organizations, funding agencies, private sector and Academia

Different aspects as coordination meetings with IMO, IOC and WMO (Marine component), relations with the private sector and the academia (Participation at RHCs conferences, workshops and seminars) and relations with funding agencies (Nippon Foundation & European Commission) although difficult and bureaucratic, were discussed at this point. It was agreed that the organization of a workshop with academia and private companies could be very interesting; therefore an Action was included in order to consider holding such an event during the next meeting of the Commission ([Action EAHC 10-25](#)).

Task 2.1.4 IHO Capacity Building Strategy

The “Three Phases Strategy” was explained by Capt. Gorziglia under this point.

Task 2.1.5 Capacity Building Work Program (CBWP)

Capt. Gorziglia explained how different projects have been assigned historically to Regional Commissions and that RHC Chairmen are responsible for the execution of the assigned projects. He also showed an example of how CBC keeps the RHC Chairman informed about the status of the projects assigned to each RHC.

EAHC has currently two projects assigned: MSI training (assigned in 2008) and Basic Hydrography Training Course. The organization of the Hydrography Course was discussed at this point.

All the attendees showed their support to this course. Language in which the course should be taught is discussed in this point. Capt. Gorziglia said that the course will be taught in English but in case this course is hosted by the Maritime University at Abidjan, a French translation could be asked for to this University. RHC Chairman will organize this course and will contact the University at Abidjan to study the possibility to teach this course in French. ([Action EAHC 10-26](#)).

MSI course will be organized by France with SCPRNW support and keeping RHC and CBC Chairmen informed. Discussion about the venue of this course is postponed until MSI subject is discussed. ([Action EAHC 10-11](#)), ([Action EAHC 10-27](#))

Task 2.1.6 Follow-up of CBC initiatives and activities

Capt. Gorziglia pointed out how important it is to follow standardized procedures when asking for CBC funding and during the whole CBC proceedings. He shows the different forms that must be submitted during the process of approval of CBC funding and that must be used by every country when requesting for CBC funds. (Procedures No. 1 and 2 have been posted in the EAHC Web site).

8.b Capacity Building Assessment (Element 2.2)

Task 2.2.1 Technical and Advisory visits

Capt. Gorziglia points out that it is very important to follow with this task that allows for a real assessment of the situation in each specific country. The Chairman asks which of the attendees would request a technical visit to their countries. No comments are put forward except for Benin who expresses their will to continue their close collaboration with France.

France points out that they volunteer to accomplish technical visits to Gabon, Cameroon and Benin.

Task 2.2.2 S-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide

The Chairman reminded once more to all coastal states to keep this publication updated, given that it is a very helpful tool in order to schedule and to prioritize when assigning funds in CBC meetings ([Action EAtHC 10-3](#)).

France and the UK pointed out that they will continue updating the information related to those countries under their cartographic responsibility. ([Action EAtHC 10-28](#)).

Task 2.2.3 Assessment procedures

Capt. Gorziglia points out that RHC shall keep CBC informed about the outcome of the activity executed; given that a report is expected from each event. CBC has prepared Procedure No. 5 in order to facilitate this process.

8.c Capacity Building Provision (Element 2.3)

Task 2.3.1 Raise awareness on the importance of Hydrography

Capt. Gorziglia reminded to all the attendees that this is an IHO general and permanent activity.

To reinforce this matter, IHB issued last September Circular Letter 72/08 in which it can be read: “the Directing Committee is always available to approach relevant authorities, including at senior governmental levels using appropriate diplomatic, intergovernmental or other points of contact, where individual national Hydrographers consider that this will help them in raising the levels of awareness and commitment to provide appropriate hydrographic services in their countries” ([Action EAtHC 10-14](#)) ([Action EAtHC 10-29](#)).

Task 2.3.2 Technical Workshops, Seminars, Short Courses

Capt. Gorziglia summarized the different projects approved for EAtHC for the next years:

2008: Basic Practical Hydrographic Survey Course, 15,000 euros. This project will be fulfilled in 2009.

2009: MSI Technical Training Course, 15,000 euros.

2010: nil

2011: Workshop on Port and Shallow Water surveys, S-44

Task 2.3.3 Hydrographic and Nautical Cartography Courses

Capt. Gorziglia reported that the IHB in conjunction with the IAB and the CBC is encouraging the development and delivery of new Hydrographic and Nautical Cartography Programs, including the establishment of new Hydrographic Schools where that regional capacity does not exist.

Within our RHC, the IHB has been working hard in this sense during the last two years, trying to establish fluent communications with the Regional Maritime University in Accra, Ghana. Thanks to these efforts, courses in this Academy in the benefit of EATHC members will probably be organized.

Task 2.3.4 On the Job Training (ashore / on board)

According to Capt. Gorziglia's report, searching for possibilities and opportunities in this sense has not been initiated yet.

Task 2.3.5 Marine/Maritime Projects

As it was made clear in France's report, CHARMER maritime highways initiative is in a dormant situation, due to the lack of human and financial resources. The Project manager was not replaced during 2007.

Task 2.3.6 Bilateral agreements

Under this point Capt. Gorziglia expressed that this Commission has been made aware of these agreements and that this approach is strongly recommended by IHO as a way to progress in Hydro-Cartographic Development.

This was the end of the CBC report presented by Capt. Gorziglia.

The representative from Benin asked for this report and the CBC procedures to be submitted to them in French ([Action EAtHC 10-30](#)).

At this point the Chairman opened the floor for CBC requests.

Togo: requested equipment, mainly for oceanography, and training of staff.

Senegal: Requested training in the Oceanography segment.

Guinea: apart from asking for the CBC report in French, they also requested training in Oceanography.

Ghana: Training for Marine cartographer. They are planning to start with a Hydrographic office in their country.

Gambia: requested training.

Nigeria: no special request.

Benin: Equipment, hydrographic software, training in oceanography, at both technical and staff levels.

At this point Capt. Gorziglia pointed out these ideas:

IHO CBC Fund does not consider at all any kind of support for equipment purchase.

IHO CBC Fund has no money for Category A Courses.

Training in Category B Courses: Thanks to France efforts in training "trainers", that will give this RHC the opportunity to have trained people that will teach these courses in French speaking countries. For English speaking countries, Accra Regional Maritime University could possibly take care of these requests.

CBC is starting with the “Basic Hydrography Course” and possibly it could be taught as a bilingual course.

He also remembered the possibility to create a group of countries in this RHC that could request funding to the Nippon Foundation. CBC could help with the administrative work of this Regional group.

He made very clear that these are the main issues that CBC can get. Requests that go further away from these limits will not be supported by CBC.

Several countries complained about this issue, saying that apart from training, they also need equipment to accomplish their hydrographic surveys, although they also admit that there are examples of countries that have received ships and afterwards they did not have money to maintain them.

France representative, with regards to the CHARMER project, said that in order to continue with this project, it could be passed to other donor agencies instead of having it supported just by France, given that such a project involves many people in different countries. Mozambique project works and the reason for that they think, is that it receives support from all the involved countries and their respective governments.

IHB representative said that there is a way to continue with CHARMER project. CBC can organize meetings with funding organizations and international organizations but in order to receive funding from these organizations a solid project must exist first of all. Once that project exists and it is passed to CBC, CBC will not fund it but they will pass it to the corresponding funding agency, but in this moment there is not such a project in this RHC.

Togo representative said that France could possibly help leading an initiative in this way.

Nigeria representative said that IHO recommendations should be followed in this field.

Finally both the Chairman and the IHO representative reminded all the attendees that any request submitted to the CBC must be done according to the procedures 1 and 2 recently prepared by CBC and that can be found at the IHO web site.

9. TECHNIQUES AND STANDARDS

9.a Nautical Cartography

France representative presented the report as CHATINTCHART Co-ordinator.

First of all they pointed out that the last update of the catalogue is July 2008 and not February 2007 as it appears on Publication M-11. Therefore, in order to avoid misunderstandings about this issue in the future they recommend following the directions given in Publication M-11 Part B. ([Action EAthC 10-33](#)).

With regards to the pending issue between France, Spain and Morocco regarding the Gibraltar Strait INT Scheme, France pointed out that they have received a proposal from Spain, in the following terms:

Spain has suggested to modify the characteristics of INT 1972 chart (change scale to 1:25 000) and proposed to include national chart ES 445 in the CHATINTCHART catalogue.

France counter proposal is the following one:

To keep chart INT 1972 (1:22.500) together with Ceuta anchorage (1:35.000), the production of a new chart covering Tanger Med Harbour at 1:10.000 and to change the eastern limit of the chart ES 445 up to meridian 5° 57' W (1:60.000).

Spain said that they will think about this new proposal and as soon as they receive the official request ([Action EAHC 10-9](#)) they will answer back.

Other issues included in the report were:

The limits of INT 1812 chart has been modified by Spain in order to take into account the traffic separation schemes of Gibraltar Strait and Cape Saint Vincent.

Portugal would like not to keep INT 2813 chart production responsibility. For sake of coherence, France has accepted to take this responsibility.

France suggests changing INT 2908 chart (A0 format) in order to include the chartlets for Luba, Limbe harbours and oil fields around Punta Europa (Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea).

There were no comments on this issue.

9.b ENC production

In a similar way as with paper charts, France presented their report regarding ENC regional scheme.

Spain proposed establishing an agreed limit of the UB1 charts in the EAHC catalogue, with the MBSHC ENC Scheme and to fix this limit at meridian 7° 15' W. France proposed Portugal to get in touch with Italy (as producer of the bordering chart) and try to reach an agreement on this issue.

Band 1 (UB1)

Overlap between French chart FR 166230 and British charts GB 100001, GB 100016 and GB 104103, to be solved between France and UK.

Band 2 (UB2)

There is a discontinuity between French and Portuguese charts in the Gulf of Guinea. This problem will be solved by Portugal, as a new paper chart in this area is expected.

Spain agreed with Portugal that the Western limit of ENC ES200303 (corresponding to INT 303 in the MEDINTCHART scheme), will be meridian 7° 15',00 W, which will be also the East limit of the ENC PT221101.

Band 3 (UB3)

The Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) was launched in April 2008. These infill ENCs will be withdrawn when Coastal States are in a position to issue and maintain their own. In this moment the UK AVCS catalogue includes several charts in the region in areas not covered by Coastal States. AVCS Catalogue can be visited at the UKHO web page and it is updated weekly. ([Action EAHC 10-36](#)).

Following WEND 11 meeting recommendations, IHB should invite relevant RHCs and INT chart coordinators to coordinate the development of small/medium scale ENC schemes. Further more, France as already INT CHART Co-ordinator, will prepare a standard document presenting the approved small and medium scale ENC Scheme for EAHC.

In fulfilment of Action EAtHC 9-9, Spain reported that the coverage of their area of responsibility for ENC was completed, including High Speed Craft navigation routes (fully compliant with IMO regulations). This action goes on ([Action EAtHC 10-8](#)).

9.c Impact of IHO and IMO meetings

During the last two years several meetings within IHO and IMO took place. The Chairman pointed out three of those meetings for being the most closely related to this RHC.

NAV-54

E-navigation and ECDIS carriage requirements were discussed in this meeting. Although e-navigation is moving forward at a slow pace, ECDIS carriage requirements were adopted and a time frame was approved for the implementation of this requirements: between 2012 and 2018, depending on class of ship and tonnage. Therefore, rate of production of ENC with the largest world coverage possible is becoming a big concern within IHO.

WEND-11

The Chairman pointed out the paper submitted by France to this meeting for consideration in order to settle the guidelines for the preparation and maintenance of small/medium scale ENC schemes. In this paper it can be read: “In recent years, some Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) have been successfully coordinating the establishment of regional ENC schemes with the implicit support of INT chart coordinators. IHB also requests the cooperation of the chairs of RHCs and the INT chart coordinators regarding the planning, production and maintenance of small scale ENC schemes”.

It is proposed that, in line with the intentions of IHB, INT chart coordinators be assigned the responsibility for preparing and maintaining regional ENC schemes, in addition to INT schemes, in their respective and relevant INT regions. All the attendees supported the idea of France taking the responsibility of this job as current Regional INT Chart Co-ordinator.

France also pointed out how important it is the collaboration of all the involved parties in order to get consistency in the production of ENCs.

9.d Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

France presented a comprehensive report on the last events occurred in the region of NAVAREA II during the last two years.

The implementation of two new NAVTEX Stations in Nigeria (Lagos and Bonny) will improve very much the broadcasting of MSI in the southern part of the region. Further information regarding these two new stations can be found at the Nigerian Hydrographic Office Web Site (www.nnho.org).

According to the French report, “Assessment of navigational information received from coastal states remains disappointing except for Spain, Portugal, Morocco and the Ivory Coast. Limited information is provided by Benin, Gambia, Senegal, and Togo ([Action EAtHC 10-10](#)). There is a special concern about movements and positions of oil platforms in the Gulf of Guinea”. ([Action EAtHC 10-32](#)).

These were the proposals raised by France:

To investigate the possibility of accomplishing periodic technical visits by NAVAREA II representatives to interested countries ([Action EAtHC 10-31](#)).

To organize a MSI course in the region with the technical support of the SCPRNW and funded by the Capacity Building Committee, counting on the experience provided by Spain as organizer of a similar course in Spain for NAVAREA III countries and in close collaboration with the EAtHC Chairman.

The Chairman opened the floor in order to receive proposals regarding the venue of the course: Several countries proposed SHOM facilities in Brest and some others preferred the RMU at Accra. Finally France as organizer of the course chose the pragmatic solution of organizing this course in Accra trying to make it easier for all the nominees to attend the course at a cheaper rate.

The date for this course will probably be the first week of July. The course will be basically taught in English, but perhaps, with the collaboration of the hosting facility (probably the Regional Maritime University in Accra) it could also partially be translated into French in benefit of the French speaking countries in the region.

Finally an action was approved giving France the possibility to organize this MSI course in Accra next year ([Action EAtHC 10-11](#)). All the interested countries must contact France and the RHC Chairman to communicate their national candidates.

10. GENERAL ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

10.a IHO Development

Portugal, as representative of this RHC to the IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (ISPWG), presented a report describing the results of this Working Group since its constitution in 2007 focusing in the set of documents that will be presented to the next Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference that will take place in June, 2009 (EIHC-4).

This revision include the new definition of Hydrography, the new Vision, Mission and Object of the IHO, the new Strategic Assumptions, Strategic Directions, Ways and Means to reach these goals such as the 5-Year Work Programme, together with a deep Risk Analysis and mitigations study and a supervising plan of the implementation of the new structure of the IHO.

ISPWG was tasked to present the revised Strategic Plan for approval in the next EIHC in 2009, working in close cooperation with the Bureau.

This report will be included in the documentation of this meeting and posted on the IHO Web site.

10.b Preparation of the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference

This Conference will be held in Monaco in June 2009 as agreed during the last IHC on 2007.

Capt, Gorziglia took the floor to say that important issues about ENC will be discussed in this Conference together with the approval of the proposals submitted by the ISPWG as already seen on the previous item. He reminded all the attendees that all this information regarding this Conference can be found on the IHO Web site.

Guinea asks for the invitation of this Conference to be sent to them together with the agenda. Capt. Gorziglia reminds the representative of Guinea that there is already an action approved on this purpose. ([Action EAthC 10-4](#))

10.c **Organization of the World Hydrographic Day**

As already expressed by Capt. Gorziglia on the previous item, this year WHD will be held in Monaco during EIHC-4.

11. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

11.a West Africa Organizations

Mr. Gueye, Secretary General of the Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa took the floor for his presentation on this Organization. He started saying that he had just been elected five months ago. And he said that the main objective of this Organization is to coordinate actions among their members in order to get synergy that will benefit all ports in this area. He said that this Organization is open to collaboration with IHO but also asks for help to reach their objectives.

Mr Gueye said that their next Council will take place in April or June 2009, in Gabon. Therefore the Commission tasked IHB to represent IHO at the Executive Council ([Action EAthC 10-37](#)). Mr Gueye also said that PMAWCA thinks that Accra Regional Maritime University, Abidjan and Nigeria are good locations for training giving the good facilities existing in those countries.

Capt. Gorziglia on behalf of IHO thanked very much Mr. Gueye for his words and he said also that we must put words in actions. There is already a MOU signed between PMAWCA and IHO and they have been invited to attend EIHC-4. These are clear signs of the good collaboration that must exist between both Organizations.

UK representative pointed out that they have tried to establish relationships with Nigeria's Port Authority in order to explain them which is the information needed by UKHO to keep charts and nautical publications updated. Therefore they think that agreement and collaboration with France and with PMAWCA is very important.

Ghana, France and Nigeria supported IHB proposal.

Finally one more action is approved trying to consolidate the relationship between EAthC and PMAWCA and MOWCA and make it more systematic ([Action EAthC-39](#)).

11.b Extension of the continental platform

Professor Adoté Blivi, from Togo, took the floor for his presentation on this subject. This presentation is included in the documentation of the meeting. He proposed to present a common project to the United Nations involving the neighbouring countries. He believes it will take three years to have that project ready, but he is conscious that they do not have capacity enough to accomplish such a project therefore he asked for support to France, Portugal and Spain in order to collaborate with them on this project.

Portugal representative reported about the work that this country is currently doing, which started four years ago, involving two ships and they have just finished the survey needed for their projects.

A special Committee for this purpose was created in Portugal managed by the Ministry of Defence. IHPT collaborates with this Committee. They pointed out that it is a very expensive project but with big benefits for the Portuguese society. Several million euros have already been spent on this project given that not only ships but also very specific equipment on board survey ships, together with people ashore etc, are needed. Nevertheless, Admiral de Brito offered IHPT as a liaison between the Portuguese Ministry of Defence and the interested countries in this RHC.

Gen. Bessero, head of the French delegation said that he supported completely the Portuguese point of view; that coordination is very important but that funding is very important too and that for SHOM this project is currently the most expensive project they are accomplishing.

Spain said that it was possible for Spain to collaborate with coastal states on this issue but that applications should be sent through their respective diplomatic representatives in Spain to the Spanish Ministry of Defence.

12. REPORTS FROM AND TO THE ADJACENT HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

No reports have been received from the adjacent Commissions. There were no comments on this issue.

13. ANY OTHER ITEM

There were no comments on this issue.

14. DECISIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cdr. Aguilar took the floor to deal with this issue. A new list of Actions was approved. Actions going on from previous meetings were included in this list and renumbered. The new list of actions has been annexed to these Minutes.

15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

An action was approved on Ghana to report by the end of June to the RHC Chairman about the possibility of hosting the next meeting in Accra probably in November or December 2010. (Action EAHC 10-38).

16. CLOSING

The closing ceremony took place just at the end of the working session on Friday the 5th under the Presidency of the Representative of the Ministry of Transportations of the Republic of Togo, the Director of Maritime Affairs and the Director of the Autonomous Port of Lomé. The RHC Chairman and the IHB representative congratulated the Togolese Authorities for their excellent job, their hospitality and the outstanding organization of the meeting with the best wishes for the new EAHC Chairman, the Director of the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office.

A Gala dinner with cultural party and dancing took place at Sarakawa Hotel on the evening of Friday the 5th as part of the closing celebrations.

On the morning of Saturday the 6th all the attendees participated in an excursion to the coastal zone of Togo. During this excursion we visited coastal erosion zones at Gbetsogbé and Agbodrafo and we were able to see the different projects going on to prevent this effect on the coast going on any further. We also visited the wharf of Kpémé. Afterwards we paid a Cultural visit at Glidji and visited the King of Guin before a superb lunch by the lake in our way back to Lomé.