



43RD MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS (IBSC)
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 9 - 20 March

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 3.8.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) is a joint board of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and the International Cartographic Association (ICA). The IBSC is responsible to promote, develop and maintain international standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers, to maintain publications and documents resulting from the tasks carried out by the Board, to review training/education programmes and competency schemes seeking recognition and to conduct on-site visits to institutions holding recognized programmes.

The 43rd meeting of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) was held at the Hotel Capilla del Mar in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 9 to 20 March. It was chaired by Mr Ron Furness (Australia, ICA) and hosted by the Colombian Navy and by the General Maritime Director, RAdm Juan Francisco Herrera Leal, the National Maritime Authority and National Hydrographer. The meeting was attended by seven of the ten Members of the Board having the remaining three members attended by VTC due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves (IBSC Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat. This was the last meeting of Prof. Keith Miller (Trinidad and Tobago, FIG), for Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves and also for Captain Leonel Manteigas (Portugal) as a member since, with his appointment as new Assistant Director of the IHO, he will be the new Secretary of the IBSC.



Board Members and hosts at the welcome ceremony for the IBSC43.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to minimise risk, the Board took the unprecedented but unavoidable decision to cancel personal attendances by delegations from submitting institutions and presentations were made by video conference. Three members had to leave the meeting early due to their national conditions and restrictions. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic also impacted the work of the Board and several work items were postponed to videoconference meetings.

During the two-week's meeting the Board assessed 15 applications for recognition of hydrographic (13) and cartographic (2) programmes from 11 countries. From the 15 submissions one was recognized, five were recognized with conditions and nine were not recognized. However, in an effort to allow more programmes to be recognized, the Board offered seven of the nine non-recognized submissions the possibility of submitting new versions inter-sessional and the remaining two were granted a one-year extension of their current recognition.

The Board was also able to progress on the maintenance of the accompanying document Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (Ed 2.1.1, March 2020) and completed a new accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document (Edition 1.0.0, March 2020).

The on-site visits to the Institute for Hydrography (Antwerp, Belgium) and to the Dalian Naval Academy (Dalian, China) were considered by the Board.



Opening address by the IBSC Chair, Mr. Ron Furness (left) and by the National Hydrographer of Colombia, RAdm Juan Francisco Herrera Leal (right).

Next meeting

The 44th meeting of the IBSC is planned to be held in Cadiz, Spain, in March/April 2021.