

## 31<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE

**Cape town, south africa 13 - 18 august**

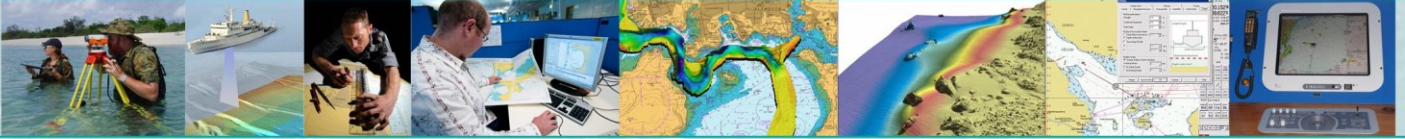
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 1.1.15.8	Attend the International Cartographic Conference

The 31<sup>st</sup> International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2023) was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 13 to 18 August 2023. The event was organised by the South African National Committee for ICA with the theme “SMART CARTOGRAPHY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”. There were 845 delegates to the ICC, an excellent attendance due in part to representation by 33 African countries and also a concurrent meeting of the Africa Region of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). There were workshops offered by the SDG Data Alliance where both organizations took part in various aspects of the ICC program, including five interesting keynote presentations. Director Abri Kampfer represented the IHO with the objective to strengthen the cooperation with the Association that has several objectives in common with the IHO.

The International Cartographic Association (ICA) was established in 1959 to promote the disciplines and professions of Cartography and Geographic Information Science (GISc) in an international context. The IHO has cooperated with the ICA for a long time, notably through the ICA Commission on Oceanic Cartography which was replaced in 1980 with a Commission on Marine Cartography. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IHO and the ICA was established in 2003 and revised in 2012 to provide a framework for continuing cooperation between the two organizations.



*IHO Director Abri Kampfer addressing the Conference in the Opening Ceremony.*



The Opening Ceremony took place on 13 August and ICA President Tim Trainor invited IHO Director Abri Kampfer to address the conference. Director Kampfer thanked the ICA President for the invitation, stressed some common objectives and the long and important collaboration between both organizations, enhancing the Marine Cartography Commission and the fact that both institutions contribute with Members to the FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC). He commented that the theme of ICC2023, "Smart Cartography for Sustainable Development," is a perfect reflection of the importance of the collaboration between IHO and ICA. Smart cartography can be used to support a wide range of sustainable development initiatives, such as managing marine resources, protecting marine ecosystems, planning and developing coastal communities and responding to climate change, to name but a few. The importance of an all-embracing digital data model for all kind of marine geoinformation based on IHO's S-100 framework was emphasised as it will allow fully interoperable data streams to feed evolving technology for the benefit of the maritime industry. He mentioned the richness of the Conference programme and congratulated the organizing committee on their efforts to organize such an important event.

The ICC 2023 consisted of the Conference, where numerous scientific papers on cartography-related matters were presented throughout the week in sessions running in parallel and a Cartographic Exhibition, which also included a digital exhibition, where various maps and other cartographic products from ICA member countries were presented with several examples of Nautical Charts.

On 14 August the IHO Director was invited for a meeting with the ICA President, Tim Trainor, the ICA Secretary-General, Thomas Schulz, ICA Vice-President, Andrés Aristengui and the incoming ICA President, Georg Gartner. Several opportunities for improving future collaboration in different areas such as the Capacity Building, Spatial Data Infrastructures, the IBSC and Cartographic Exhibitions were discussed. New membership to the Marine Cartography Commission and an additional two ICA members to the IBSC was highlighted. An interesting discussion on ethics in cartography was held as it was recognized that cartography can deliver a powerful message and influence decision makers. It was agreed that the close professional relationship between IHO and ICA should continue and strengthen where possible.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> International Cartographic Conference is planned to be held on 28 July to 1 August 2025 in Vancouver, Canada.