

22nd Meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC-22) Isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador, 5 – 7 June

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Task 3.3.1	Organize, prepare, and report annual meetings of CBSC

The 22nd meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) was held in Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, ECUADOR, from 5 to 7 June 2024, hosted by the National Defence Ministry, through the Naval Oceanographic and Antarctic Institute (INOCAR) in the Charles Darwin Research Station. The meeting was chaired by Mr Evert Flier (Norway) and attended by 18 attendees from 10 Member States, representing 10 out of 15 RHCs, with Australia and Japan as observers. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.



Participants at CBSC22 in Charles Darwin Research Station

Captain Andrés Pazmiño Manrique, Director of INOCAR, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of Capacity Building (CB) in the International Hydrographic Community to contribute to the safety of navigation and safeguarding the marine domains. He also informed that Ecuador has a long history in environmental protection and understanding the complex geological and biological processes that continue to shape Galápagos islands, as a sanctuary for studying evolutionary biology but also a critical area for marine research and sustainable tourism. CBSC Chair Mr Evert Flier thanked INOCAR for hosting the CBSC-22 meeting in a place which is an example of sustainable management for the entire world. He mentioned the initiatives taken to provide additional funds to the CB Work Programme, as the creation of the Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO' Project Initiatives under the IRCC, the support provided by the RENCs and the generous support from Nippon Foundation and Republic of Korea. Director Luigi Sinapi highlighted that the meeting represents a useful occasion to contribute to the IHO challenges for implementing the new Capacity Building Strategy, supporting the S-100 implementation roadmap and contributing to the creation of new hydrographic capacities in those coastal States not yet having a Hydrographic Service and not yet members of the IHO.

Activities in 2024
ENC Quality Assessment & Conversion Course
 20-24 May 2024, İstanbul

- 2023 CBWP-21 & 2024 CBWP-P16
- The workshop included 11 participants hailing from Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Tunisia, Thailand, and Türkiye.

Resources	
Allocated	Spent
50.000 USD	41.823 USD





CBSC22
 Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador, 5 - 7 June 2024



Course funded by IC-ENC "Opt In Fund" for MBSHC members

Some noteworthy aspects emerged from the presentations of the CB coordinators, which demonstrate that RHCs are exploring all available opportunities to broaden the CB offer to their members, including activities of Phase 3 of the CB Strategy, closely related to the implementation of the S-100 roadmap. In this regard, the CB coordinators prepared specific Phase 3 activities to be submitted to the IC-ENC for subsequent funding, similar to what was done in the MBSHC for the "Workshop on ENC Quality Assessment", funded under the "IC-ENC Opt In Fund" with the name "ENC Quality Assessment & Conversion Course".

PRIMAR signed a Letter of Intent with the IHO to provide IHO Member States access to the PRIMAR Training Portal, based on application through the CBSC. Then, particular interest aroused on the *Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping at the University of New Hampshire*, established at NOAA, to unify approach to provide a focal point for activities transitioning developments in mapping platforms, sensors, and concepts of operations into operations and to provide a mechanism to leverage public-private partnerships in advancing the nation's ocean and Great Lakes mapping goals.

Highlights on the *Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO' Project Initiatives under the IRCC* were delivered by Australia as member of the PT, to update the CBSC on the tasks and list of activities that require funding. As contribution to the PT, the work prepared by the IENWG on "*IHO and EC Cooperation in Third Countries for Hydrographic Capacity Development*" to promote programs for the development of competencies, expertise, training and means to increase the hydrographic capacity in the EU and outside EU, was introduced by the IRCC Chair.

A presentation on IHO e-Learning center was provided by Tom Richardson, the Chair of the IHO e-Learning center Steering Committee, highlighting the achievements done so far and the challenges that the center is facing. The center will also function as hub for e-courses provided by other institutions and international / intergovernmental organizations.

On EWH project, to accomplish the Council's action on Gender Balance in Hydrography (C7/24), it was decided to establish a Project Team with the participation of the main stakeholders involved so far into the EWH project, to define the regulatory framework (M-3) for a continued activity on this social theme through a proposal for an IHO Resolution, to be proposed to IRCC by the end of 2024. Attention was given to the initiatives in place and on the generous contributions (financial and in-kind) recently received by some IHO Member States (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, UK and USA).

A significant increment of the funds for non-earmarked activities was received from Republic of Korea in 2024 for 2025. In the Finance Report for 2023 (see CCL 02/2024), 40k€ of the IHO budget surplus for 2023 would be allocated to the Capacity Building Fund for 2024. The Three-Year Work Plans were presented and the non-earmarked activities for 2025 were prioritized,

based on CB Procedure 4. To meet the requirements of all submissions (29 in total) would require funds of 577,000 €. The funds allocated to the 2025 CB Work Programme currently stand at 189,061 €. In case additional funds are attributed to the CB Fund in 2024, they will be allocated to 2025 CBWP.

In the compilation of the CB Management Plan for 2025, priority was assigned to those activities related to Phase 1, with attention to those coastal states not yet IHO members (Technical Visits and seminars on raising awareness on Hydrography before the RHCs meetings), in accordance with the revised Capacity Building Strategy Ed. 2022. Consideration was given to the potential support that could come from the IC-ENC through the “IC-ENC Opt In Fund” to finance those activities co-related to Phase 3. The USCHC CB coordinator in coordination with Australia will explore GIS options to visualize CB activities included into the CB Management plan.



Servicio Hidrografico y Oceanografico insular de la Armada

INOCAR kindly offered the opportunity to visit its insular detachment based in Santa Cruz Island, providing a presentation on the activities normally carried out in the Galapagos Islands, with particular focus on hydrographic surveys in the Galapagos Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), environmental monitoring projects conducted in collaboration with International Organizations, and activities in the tide gauging and oceanographic sectors. Finally, on the morning of 7th June, CBSC participants were offered a guided tour inside the Charles Darwin Research Station.

A VTC CBSC Intersessional meeting is planned for 6th February 2025. Next CBSC meeting is planned to be held on 28-30 May 2025 in Monaco (Principality of Monaco) at the IHO Secretariat. Follow up meetings are proposed to be held in Peru (May/June 2026), Nigeria (May/June 2027), Australia or New Zealand (May/June 2028 – Venue TBD) and Denmark (May/June 2029 TBC).