

Participation in the Programme Management Board 15th meeting (PMB15) Busan and Seoul, Republic of Korea 14-17 January 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.3.9.1

Maintain relations with KHOA for the management of Cat A Course at University of Southern Mississippi.

High level summary

- The financial support of the Republic of Korea for the year 2025 was confirmed, as well as the 2025/2026 Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) for 2 international students and the Nautical Cartography Cat B course at KHOA, ROK for 10 international students.
- The Republic of Korea confirmed the financial support of 60.000 Euro for the 2026 non-earmarked activities of the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme.
- The commitment of Republic of Korea to financially support the interim installation phase of the envisioned S-100 Infrastructure Centre was confirmed.

Details:

The 15th coordination meeting of the Programme Management Board (PMB15) for the IHO-Republic of Korea (ROK) Programme of Technical Cooperation was held in person, at the Asti Hotel, Busan, Republic of Korea from 14 to 16 January 2025, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the ROK and the IHO on support for the IHO Capacity Building Programme. Delegations from KHOA (ROK), USM (USA) and the IHO participated at the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas. The Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) Chair, Mr Evert Flier also participated at the meeting.



KHO, IHO Secretariat, CBSC and USM representatives – 16 January 2025 – Asti Hotel – Busan, ROK

The meeting started with the revision of the List of Decisions of the PMB14 and the 2024 Financial Report. The representative of USM delivered a presentation on the current status of the programme recognized with the Category "A", with a focus on the University facilities and systems available to the students and the Programme Capacity Building legacy.

The PMB15 examined 6 applications for the Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) recognized by the IBSC (FIG/IHO/ICA - International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers). The Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the ROK, the IHO Secretariat, the USM and the Chair of CBSC as an observer, selected a candidate from Guatemala and Sri Lanka each to enrol in the 2025-2026 edition. In addition to the selected candidates, one reserve from Bangladesh was also selected. Since 2013, the number of graduated students from the Category "A"

Programme totals 25, including those from the 2024-2025 academic year, from 15 IHO Member States (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Estonia, Guatemala, Greece, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Thailand, Tunisia and Türkiye).

PMB15 also approved the budget allocation for the programmes in 2025. The budget includes funds for the participation of 10 students in a Course in Nautical Cartography recognized with the Category "B", to be held at the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) in Busan, ROK from 16 June to 31 October 2025, a new remarkable contribution (60.000 Euros) to support the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme 2026 (CBWP 2026) non-earmarked activities, and the participation at the 2024-2025 Graduation Ceremony planned for the 4th of August 2024 at the USM.

During the meeting, a presentation on the current status, achievements and challenges of the IHO e-Learning Centre was provided by Mr Evert Flier in his position as IHO e-Learning Centre Steering Committee Chair.

KHOA also delivered a presentation on a potential new contribution mechanism to expand IHO-ROK CB Programme through an Official development assistance (ODA), a government aid to promote the development and welfare of developing countries.

The meeting included also some visits, such as a visit to the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) and the KIOST research vessel ISABU.

On 17th January 2025, IHO Director Sinapi met the Director General for International Legal Affairs and the Director of Territory and Ocean Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of Korea in Seoul. During the meeting, the common programs between ROK and IHO, the new important projects related to the implementation of S-100 standard and next important appointments (i.e. the next 4th Session of the IHO Assembly) were discussed. The representatives of MOFA renewed the Republic of Korea's interest and ongoing commitment to the proactive support of the various IHO initiatives, despite the volatile internal and geopolitical situation.

Photo:



Participants at the PMB15 – Busan, ROK

Upcoming meetings:

PMB16 is planned for January 2026 in Gulfport / New Orleans, USA and will be hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi.