

Special Conference of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission Tokyo, Japan, 3 – 5 February 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026

WP 3 Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)

High level summary:

- The Commission reviewed and prepared members submissions for future capacity development opportunities to be funded from IHO or RENC resources.
- The Commission reviewed and updated their Statutes
- Selections for EAHC representatives in the next IHO Council were made in favour of Malaysia and the Philippines.
- Updates were provided on several important initiatives, including S-100 planning, MSI, and Seabed 2030

Details:

The Special Conference of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission was preceded by the 15th Training, Research and Development Coordination Board of Directors (TRDC BOD) meeting. The TRDC BOD was held in Tokyo, Japan on February 3rd, with delegates reviewing the region's capacity-building achievements in 2025. Dr. John Nyberg represented the IHO, and the meeting brought together participants from nine Member States—Brunei Darussalam, China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand—as well as eight observer countries: Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand, Sweden, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam. Notable accomplishments included the successful completion of three major seminars and training programs: the S-57 to S-101 Transition Seminar, the Seminar on Interpretation and Enhancement of Maritime Safety Information (MSI), and the Training on Production of S-102 Bathymetric Surfaces, each attended by participants from nine Member States. The East Asia Hydrographic Leaders Programme (EAHLP) was also highlighted, involving thirteen participants from seven Member States who engaged in mentorship and professional development activities. Member States presented their individual capacity-building initiatives, demonstrating the region's strong commitment to advancing hydrographic capabilities and supporting the transition to S-100 standards.

The meeting addressed administrative and strategic matters, including proposed amendments to the TRDC BOD Terms of Reference to align with organizational changes and adopt gender-inclusive language. Delegates reviewed updates from CBSC-23, including developments in the IHO E-Learning Centre and the availability of new e-learning courses on S-100 and S-124 Navigational Warnings provided by PRIMAR. Discussions centered on planning capacity-building activities for 2026, with particular attention to funding challenges for programs related to S-12x production and S-10x harmonization. The meeting agreed to submit three programs to CBSC-24 for IHO funding—a high-level visit to Timor Leste, a seminar on raising hydrography awareness, and training on ZDF Tide Application—while seeking alternative funding from IC-ENC and PRIMAR for S-100-related training initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a formal leadership transition, as Commodore Renny Lilik Asmoro of Indonesia handed over the Chair position to Mr. Li Wen Hua of China, who also assumed the role of Capacity Building Coordinator. The Republic of Korea was elected as Vice-Chair of the TRDC BOD. Delegates expressed appreciation to Japan for its hospitality and effective organization of the meeting,

and reaffirmed their collective commitment to advancing hydrographic training, research, and regional cooperation in support of safe navigation and maritime domain awareness throughout East Asia.

Special Conference of the EAHC

The EAHC Special Conference brought together participants from nine Member States and several observer delegations. The Member States represented were Brunei Darussalam, China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand. Observer countries included Australia, Cambodia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam. Additionally, distinguished guests from New Zealand, Sweden, and Türkiye attended the conference, bringing valuable international expertise and perspectives to the discussions on hydrographic cooperation and S-100 implementation in the East Asia region.

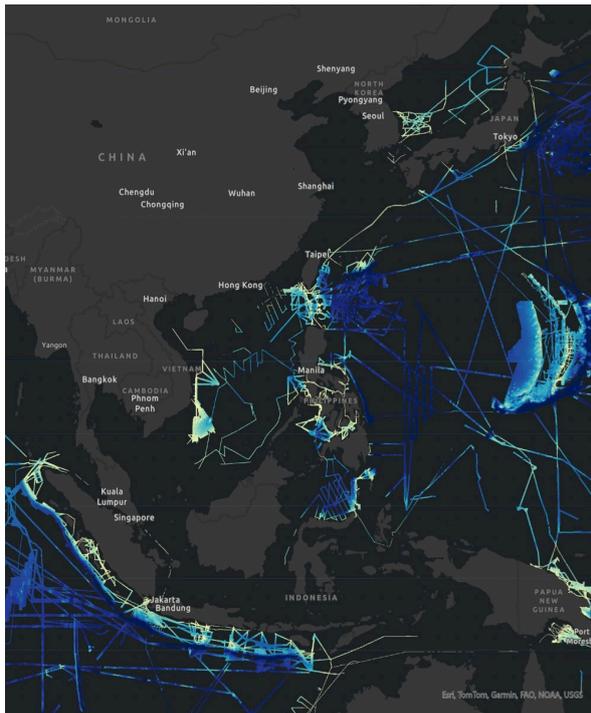
The Special Conference of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) was convened in Tokyo, Japan, with an opening addresses from EAHC Chair Mr. Shi Binfeng (China) and the host Japanese Coast Guard Mr. Hideki Kinoshita-san, (Japan). Dr. John Nyberg, Director of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and collaborative problem-solving within the hydrographic community, while highlighting key initiatives including S-100 implementation and the IHO Infrastructure Centre. The conference brought together representatives from nine Member States and eight observer countries to address critical matters related to regional hydrographic cooperation, standards development, and capacity building.

Significant progress was reported on S-100 implementation, with all Phase 1 Product Specifications—including S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-124, S-128, S-129, and S-158:101—approved by IHO Member State vote. The HSSC Chair, Mr. Magnus Wallhagen, briefed participants on the S-100 timeline, guidelines for IHO Sea Trial Areas, and the status of the IHO Infrastructure Centre, while emphasizing the vital role of S-100 in supporting SOLAS regulations and maritime safety. Member States were encouraged to establish National S-100 Committees, share implementation experiences, and provide Phase 1 coverage plans for inclusion in INTogIS III. Survey results indicated that five EAHC Member States plan to provide S-101 ENCs by 2026, representing a 50% regional readiness rate, though challenges related to human resources, technical infrastructure, and capacity building were identified.

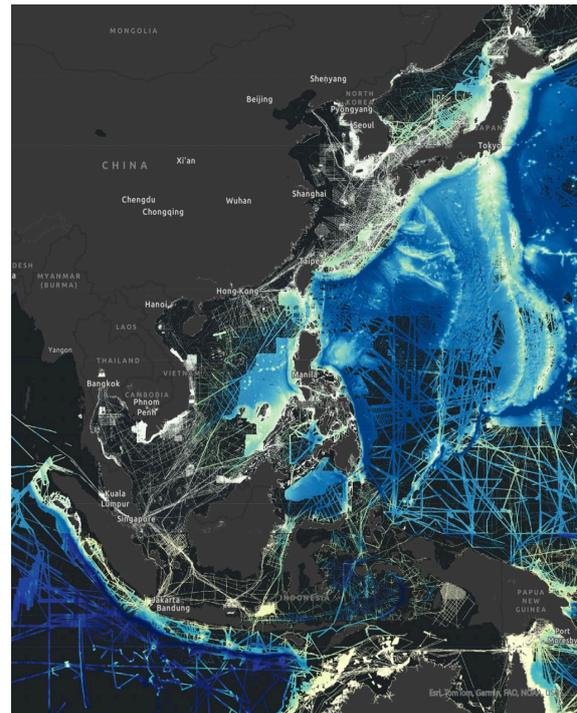
The Conference addressed capacity-building achievements and future programming. for CB activities. The TRDC BOD Chair reported on successful completion of three major training programs in 2025, including seminars on S-57 to S-101 transition, S-102 production, and Maritime Safety Information enhancement, along with the East Asia Hydrographic Leaders Programme involving thirteen participants from seven Member States. Leadership transitioned from Indonesia to China for both the TRDC BOD Chair and Capacity Building Coordinator positions, with the Republic of Korea elected as Vice-Chair. Six capacity-building programs were planned for submission, with three programs to be submitted to CBSC-24 for IHO funding and three S-100-related programs to be proposed to IC-ENC and PRIMAR for alternative funding support.

A central discussion concerned amendments to the EAHC Statutes, where consensus was achieved on amendments to Articles III through X, which had been unanimously approved at EAHC Conference-15. However, disagreement persisted regarding Article I, Paragraph 1 (geographic scope and naming) and Article II, Paragraph 2 (membership approval requirements). After extensive discussion, the Conference determined that in accordance with Article X, Paragraph 4, the original wording would be maintained for these provisions where consensus could not be reached, while allowing the agreed amendments to Articles III through X to proceed. Malaysia was tasked with assisting in drafting. Malaysia agreed to draft a Circular Letter on the amended Statutes. The IHO Director highlighted potential implications of membership decisions on regional representation in the IHO Council, while Viet Nam's application for full EAHC membership remained under consideration.

The Conference approved several significant organizational matters, including the election of Malaysia and the Philippines as IHO Council Members from the EAHC for the next three-year inter-Assembly period, and the establishment of a new Working Group on Allocation of CATZOC/QoBD Values to optimize data quality presentation in Electronic Navigational Charts and promote regional technical exchange. Reports were presented by various coordinators and working groups, including EA-RECC on S-101 conversion progress, the EAHC MSDIWG on marine spatial data infrastructure development with leadership transitioning to Singapore, NAVAREA XI on navigational warning operations, and GEBCO Seabed2030 on bathymetric mapping progress in the region.



Seabed 2030 Report 6% - 2017



Seabed 2030 Report 13.36% - 2025

The Conference concluded with interventions from three candidates for senior IHO positions—Mr. Adam Greenland (New Zealand) for IHO Director, Mr. Burak Inan (TurkiyeTürkiye) for IHO Director, and Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) for Secretary-General—each outlining their visions for advancing S-100 implementation, capacity building, and organizational development. Industry briefings were provided by IIC Technologies on S-100 services and support capabilities. The Chair formally closed the conference with appreciation for all participants' contributions and reaffirmed the commitment to advancing technical cooperation, data sharing, standards implementation, and capacity building throughout East Asia.



Upcoming meetings:

The next EAHC Conference is scheduled to be held in Singapore in the second half of March 2027