

IHO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Seminar - 2019 **29-31 October 2019, Singapore**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 3.3.9 2019 CBWP P-35	Plan, administer and implement Capacity Building activities, including seminars

The IHO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Seminar was held in Singapore from 29 to 31 October, organized by the IHO and supported by the Nippon Foundation (NF) of Japan. The Nippon Foundation has funded selected international trainees to attend the courses in nautical cartography at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) for the last eleven years. Since 2014 the training has been conducted under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the IHO and NF, known as the IHO-NF CHART (Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training) Project. The course in "Marine Cartography and Data Assessment" delivered for the CHART Project is recognized at the Category "B" level by the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) in accordance with the Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers, IHO Publication S-8.

The objectives of the Alumni Seminar were to strengthen the IHO-NF Alumni network, to encourage cooperation between the fellows, to improve the global friendship and to obtain feedback from the alumni. Of the total of 84 fellows, 39 alumni from 29 countries (Algeria, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Mozambique, Oman, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam) attended the seminar.

Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation), Ms. Mao Hasebe (representative of the Nippon Foundation), Ms. Lucy Fieldhouse (UKHO), Mr. Christopher Booth (UKHO), Mr. Jeff Bryant (retired UKHO), Mr. Adam Greenland (former Chair of the IBSC) and Mr. Shigeru Nakabayashi (Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department) also attended the Seminar as invited guests. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Mustafa Iptes, Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves and Mr. Naohiko Nagasaka (Project Officer seconded to the IHO Secretariat by Japan).



Participants of the IHO-NF Alumni Seminar

The Seminar was opened by Director Iptes and the welcome speech delivered by Mr. THAI LOW Ying-Huang (Chief Hydrographer of Singapore). The keynote speeches were delivered by Mr.

Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation), Mr. Jeff Bryant (Former Course Coordinator, retired UKHO) and Mr. Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand and former Chair of the IBSC). Four Members of the IBSC also attended the opening of the Seminar.

Presentations given by the representatives of NF, IHO and UKHO informed the participants about the background of the IHO-NF cooperation, the impact analysis of the CHART Project and a glimpse in the future of the profession of the Cartographers. The fellows shared their experiences and the lessons learned during and after the training programme, their professional progress since their training, and their expectations for future developments in their hydrographic services.

The presentations from the fellows and the impact analysis showed the progress of the world nautical cartography derived from the CHART project in the eleven years since its inception. Most of the fellows shared their experience to lead charting activity with system implementation and work flow innovation. Countries that have alumni of the CHART project have shown significant increase in their chart coverage compared to non-alumni countries, as shown in the IHO publication C-55 *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide*.

The Seminar also shed light in various aspects on the work of cartographers. The keynote speech delivered by Mr. Unno triggered the discussion about the future of nautical cartography with the rapid change in technology and automation. His speech paved the way for the fellows to consider their profession more critically and beyond their routine tasks. The IBSC Members present had the opportunity to see evidence of the success of the IBSC recognition framework through the achievements of the alumni.

The Seminar was an opportunity to assess the retention of the alumni as 98% of them are still working in their hydrographic services or related government sector and 60% are the lead cartographers. The NF has so far funded 64 people from 39 countries through the IHO Capacity Building Programme. This group is enlarged with another 20 alumni that attended the same courses, funded from other sources, leading to 84 alumni from 45 countries at the service of nautical cartography worldwide.

Presentations and speeches provided at the Seminar will be available on the IHO web site at: www.iho.int/cb → Special contributions from external donors



Nautical Cartographers at the service of nautical cartography worldwide