

IHO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Workshop-2016 2-4 November, Bangkok, Thailand

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Nippon Foundation (NF) Alumni Workshop was held from 2 to 4 November in Bangkok, Thailand organized by the IHO and supported by the Nippon Foundation of Japan. The Nippon Foundation has funded selected international trainees to attend courses in nautical cartography at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) for the last eight 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 IHO Publication S-8 - *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers*.

The objectives of the Alumni Workshop were to strengthen the IHO-NF Alumni network, to encourage cooperation between the fellows, to further develop global linkages and to obtain feedback from the alumni. Of the total of 51 fellows, 18 alumni from 16 countries (Algeria, Bulgaria, Egypt, Estonia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vietnam, Japan and Thailand), were available to participate in this event. Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation), Mr. Yu Nakahiro (representative of the Nippon Foundation), Mr. Jeff Bryant (International Capacity Building Manager of the UKHO), Mr. Derek Aldridge (cartography trainer from the UKHO), Mr. Shinichi Toyama (representative of the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department) also attended the workshop. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Mustafa Iptes, Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves and Dr. Kentaro Kaneda (Project Officer seconded to the IHO Secretariat by Japan).



Vice Admiral Charin Boonmoh (Director General of the Thailand Hydrographic Office), Mr. Mustafa Iptes (IHO Director) and Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director of Nippon Foundation).

The Workshop was opened by Director Iptes. This was followed by keynote speeches delivered by Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno and Vice Admiral Charin Boonmoh (Director General of the Thailand Hydrographic Office). Following the presentations given by the representatives of the IHO, UKHO and NF which informed the participants about the background of the IHO-NF cooperation and development of the CHART Project, the alumni described 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 alumni showed that all alumni continue to work on nautical cartography or related matters since the completion of the training programme and that about half of the alumni are in a position to teach nautical cartography to their staff or to students in formal education and training programmes. Most of the alumni now hold key positions in the establishment and development of cartographic production and the publication of ENCs. For the majority of the alumni the workshop was their first participation in an international meeting which provided them additional confidence and experience to further develop their work.

The workshop provided opportunities to discuss the ways and means to continue developing nautical cartography worldwide in line with the objectives of the IHO and of the Nippon Foundation, including the need for a Category "A" cartographic training programme.

The alumni all agreed that hearing about the work and developments in other hydrographic offices can help to establish benchmarks and identify success stories to help promote their work both within their chains of command and with other national, regional and international organizations.

All presentations and speeches provided at the workshop are available on the IHO web site at: http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/CB/Special-Projects/Webpage-JCBP/CHART_outline.html



Participants of the IHO-NF Alumni Workshop-2016