

**TECHNICAL VISIT FROM THE IHB REPRESENTATIVES TO
ESTONIA**

4-5 JULY 2006

I.- General Information.

Program 2 “Capacity Building” of the IHO Work Program 2003/2007 included as Tasks 1.3.1. “Membership enlargement of the Baltic Sea H.C.” and 2. 1. 7 “Carry out visits of Technical Cooperation to the Baltic Countries”, as well as Objective 2. 2. 1, “Encourage entry of new Member States”.

In late 2005, the IHB sent letters to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, informing the authorities of these countries about the intention to pay a technical visit to them, in accordance with the Work Programme approved by the Member States. Positive replies were received from the three countries.

The IHB prepared the technical visits, which took place from 3 to 11 July 2006.

II.- Terms of Reference for the visits

1. IHB Visit Team:

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director responsible of Capacity Building matters and Captain Federico BERMEJO, Professional Assistant in charge of Capacity Building and Training.

2. General Objective:

To discuss technical matters of common interest to the three countries and the IHO.

3. Specific Objectives

- a. Meet with the Hydrographic Authorities of the three countries and provide a presentation covering the following aspects:
 1. The International Hydrographic Organization. Structure and Membership. Present work program and budget, and its development.
 2. The International situation of hydrography.
 3. Capacity Building and Training & Education opportunities in Hydrography.
 4. Hydrographic application different from safety to navigation. Benefits of establishing a National Hydrographic Committee.

- b. Note the structure and development of the countries, especially in the following areas:
 1. The Hydrographic Services. Responsibilities and organization.
 2. Process in place to follow new Chapter V of SOLAS, Regulation 9. Identification of priority needs.
 3. Present situation concerning hydrographic surveys, nautical charts and MSI. Updating of the IHO publication S-55 “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide”.
 4. Experiences gained in the establishment of Hydrographic Services, cartographic production and distribution (including ENC’s), bilateral agreements with other countries and services provided to other organizations.

- c. Meet with other National related Authorities to whom the IHB could make a presentation about the IHO, aiming raising awareness on the importance of hydrography and its contribution to the development of initiatives of socio-economic impact; the requirements of SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 9 and the need to develop national plans to meet these obligations;

VISIT TO THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION OF ESTONIA



Mr. Siilanasusk, Capt. Gorziglia, Mr. Prela and Dr. Kraav

I. Programme of the visit

4 July

- Courtesy call to the Director General of the Estonian Maritime Administration main office
- Meeting with the Maritime Administration representatives
- Presentation of the EMA VTS Centre and Lighthousing Service
- Visit to the icebreaker “Tarmo”

5 July

- Meeting with the Maritime Administration representatives.

II. Authorities participating in the visits

The following authorities from the Estonian Maritime Administration participated in the meetings:

Mr. Toivo PRELA	Deputy Director General, Head of Aids to Navigation and Hydrographic Division
Dr. Vaido Kraav	Adviser
Mr. Tõnis Siilanasusk	Head of the Cartographic Department
Mrs. Krista Rohtman	Public Relations, Maritima Council of Estonia

III. Presentations:

The programme included a presentation from the Estonian Maritime Administration and the IHO.

The EMA provided a very detailed presentation, informing about its mission and responsibilities, together with its organization and resources to carry out its tasks.

The IHO presentation included a detailed explanation about the new missions and challenges of the IHO, its Work Programme, the worldwide status of hydrography, with the latest resolutions of the U.N. and IMO, the activities and achievements of the IHO Capacity Building Committee, the IHO Baltic Sea Regional Hydrographic Commission, initiatives proposed and experiences to be shared.

IV. Organization of the Estonian Maritime Administration

The Estonian Maritime Administration is a governmental organization that has been established to ensure maritime safety and to organize navigation in Estonian waters. The coastline of Estonia is 3749 km long and the number of islands and islets almost 1500. In addition to the numerous islands, many shoals and reefs complicate navigation.

The history of the Estonian Maritime Administration dates back to 1918 and resumed its work on December 1, 1989, when it took over the full responsibility for maritime issues in Estonia.

In previous years, the Administration has carried out a number of tasks, like search and rescue, piloting and pollution cleaning. These duties have since then be transferred to other institutions. Today, the Administration is a governmental agency that operates within the area of government of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. Its main tasks include ensuring maritime safety in Estonian territorial and inland maritime waters and navigable inland waters.

Estonia is an IHO Member since 1st February 1997. The head office is located in Tallinn, with branch offices in Tartu, Haapsalu, Pärnu, Jõhvi and Kuressaare.

Under a Director General, the MA comprises three main sections: the Maritime Safety Division, the Hydrography and Aids to Navigation Division and the Administrative Division with a total of 400 staff members.

The Hydrography and Aids to Navigation Division is a structural unit of the Administration that fulfils the following tasks:

- Installing and maintaining aids to navigation.
- Developing and maintaining public waterways and sea lanes.
- Performing hydrographic surveys
- Publishing charts and other nautical publications
- Collecting and distributing nautical information.

Hydrographic surveys are carried out using three survey ships and one small craft. They are equipped with multi-beam echo sounders and GPS equipment that ensure the quality of data collection.

The Cartographic section produces both paper charts and ENC's. The portfolio of paper charts includes 61 national charts and 8 INT charts and 72 ENC cells. Nautical publications are issued by the Books of Reference and Navigational Information sections. The system of aids to navigation, with 60 lighthouses, 177 lighted beacon towers, 63 light buoys and 663 buoys is maintained by the MA.

V. Subjects of special consideration

Estonia has a special concern about the establishment of a vertical datum for the region. A Working Group chaired by Dr. Kraav has been formed with the countries of the BSHC and has already started to work on the subject.

Progress must be made in the population of a hydro-cartographic data base. The cartographic coverage of Estonian waters is completed in paper form and ENC, but this latter is mainly formed from data digitised from paper charts and not from original new gathered data. This means that some data may not be complying with the IHO Standard S-44.



Dr. Kraav, Mr. Prela, Capt. Bermejo and Mr. Siilanas

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

- 1) The Hydrographic Services established by the Maritime Administration of Estonia are a clear example of efficient development, having started from very basic facilities in 1991 until the present status fulfilling the essential national requests. The technological level achieved is good and the work is carried out in conformity with a prioritised plan. The monitoring of the Aids to Navigation is based on a cellular phone network and modern equipment such as multi-beam echo sounder is largely used. Nautical paper charts are printed in Sweden through a bilateral agreement. The experience of Estonia in the establishment of a Hydrographic Service could be useful for other countries and in this regard, the support of Estonia could be of special value in the IHO relations with Georgia and Lithuania. It is therefore recommended to forward to the IHB complete documentation about the establishment of the hydrographic services in the country and to precise how to publicize that information with a view to sharing the experience with any developing country wishing to develop such services.

- 2) The efforts made by the Maritime Administration in the field of Training in Hydrography could be re-inforced by means of an international recognition of courses through the FIG/IHO/ICA Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographers and Nautical Cartographers. It is recommended to send the pertinent documentation of the hydrographic courses to the Secretary of the FIG/IHO/ICA Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographers and Nautical cartographers (Capt. F. Bermejo, IHB, Monaco) for a preliminary reviewing and advice, aiming at a future submission to the A. Board for international recognition.
- 3) It is also recommended that the Estonian Maritime Administration make use of the support offered by the IHO Capacity Building Committee to fund small projects and other regional initiatives addressing those needs through the Chairman of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Latvia)
- 4) The IHB will get in contact with the Chairman of the IHO Tidal Committee to make them aware of the concerns stated by Estonia with respect to the establishment of a regional vertical datum and to provide the necessary advice and support to the Working Group of the BSHC.

The IHB is grateful to the authorities of the Estonian Maritime Administration for the excellent organization of the visit and the kind hospitality offered to the IHB representatives.