

**19TH MEETING OF THE IHO-CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO CBSC19**

ONLINE, 9 - 10 JUNE 2021

Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by: IHO Secretariat

Executive Summary: This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHO Secretariat.

Status of Membership of the IHO

1. IHO Membership. Lebanon became the 94th IHO Member State end of 2020. Unfortunately, there are four Member States - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Syria and Vanuatu - suspended from Member States rights.

IHO Outreach

2. World Hydrography Day. Taking into account the IHO Centenary (to be described later on) and the A-2 decisions, the theme of the World Hydrography Day for 2021, as announced by IHO CL 01/2021, is:

“One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography”

The theme is designed to showcase progress in knowledge and technology over the past 100 years, while celebrating the ground-breaking work which was done during this period. The goal is to highlight the past, present, and future of hydrography by showing the important work of early hydrographers, progress in technology, and state of the art in technology.

Taking into account the impact of digital outreach, the new IHO website totalled 258,363 page views in 2020. The substantial increase in online communication, including social media, resulted in a 191% increase in followers on the IHO LinkedIn page with a new record of 30,000 total views for June 2020. On Twitter, the account was created at the end of 2019, and recorded 17,200 total views in April 2020. The video on World Hydrography Day had over 16,000 views on the YouTube channel. These initiatives have contributed to raising awareness about the IHO’s activities among hydrographers, but also among a wider audience.

3. IHO Centenary Celebrations (IHO-100). The IHO Secretariat has already undertaken the preparations for the IHO Centenary celebrations ranging from 2019 to 2021, as important milestones of the IHO. In this respect, a Prestige Book was issued in 2020, and a commemorative stamp was issued by the Principality of Monaco on 26 February 2021 for the IHO Centenary. With the IHO CL 16/2021, it was established that the major focus of the IHO Secretariat’s outreach activities for 2021, as reported at the 2nd IHO Assembly, will be the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau on 21 June 1921 – later to become the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization. According to Decision A2/15, the **“Peak-of-the-peak”** event was originally planned for World Hydrography Day (WHD 2021) on 21 June 2021 with Member State representatives coming to participate in person.

In consideration of the continued travel and physical meeting limitations induced by the COVID19 pandemic, the IHO Secretariat has decided to reformat the celebrations. The "Peak-of-the-peak" event is now planned to be held as a hybrid event consisting of a small reception at the Secretariat with a select few representatives of local authorities and stakeholders by invitation only, exhibitions of modern survey technology in Monaco harbour and a panel discussion. Due to the ancient relations between the IHO and the Principality of Monaco and France, it is expected that His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco and a representative from the French Government will honour the IHO with a speech, as well as His Excellency Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, who has confirmed his participation. Italy confirmed to send the Italian Navy tall ship Amerigo Vespucci to Monaco.

The Secretariat is currently working on a suitable digital presentation of all these activities, so that Member States around the world can participate "virtually". An important element will be the live broadcast of the speeches, as well as a broadcast of videos, highlighting the importance and the role of hydrography, and a virtual panel discussion on future challenges.

4. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR is a pdf publication, with peer-reviewed articles, with two editions a year and an annual printed copy consisting of a compilation of the articles. Access to this publication is free via the IHO website and without restriction. Member States are strongly urged to contribute to the Review as an important means of sharing information on their activities and developments within the hydrographic community. Other organizations or individuals working in related hydrographic fields, are also invited to contribute to this publication. Through its 98 years of existence, the IHR has counted on the important collaboration of the worldwide Hydrographers, most from the Member States Hydrographic Offices, and from the members of the IHR Editorial Board that have contributed to the maintenance of this important publication.

Capt (ret) Brian Connon (USA) was appointed as new IHR Editor with effect from January 2020 and coordinated already the two editions of 2020. In his first editorial he expressed the intention to continue the evolution of the IHR to "best serve the need of the IHO and the hydrographic community" and be "the journal of choice for hydrographic content". As a sign of the changes that were implemented in 2020, the cover page of the IHR was aligned with the most recent branding image of the IHO. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established.

At the IHO Secretariat, a dedicated team composed by some IHO staff and the IHR Editor is working on the IHR Website, which will be fully operational by 2021. The task for building the new IHR website was assigned to an IT and Website Company. One important aspect will be the classification of the articles by collections, to allow the users to better find the articles by the respective main topics (collections).

Capacity Building Programme

5. Capacity Building Programme. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme was clearly affected in 2020 by the COVID 19 Pandemic. Expenditure in the IHO 2020 CB Work Programme (CBWP) was 42,125.00 Euros, a value that cannot be compared with the previous years. It is also expected that the current year is significantly affected by the COVID 19 Pandemic and that most of the 2021 CBWP needs to be moved to the

2022CBWP. In the CBSC19 Intersessional Meeting, Decision 5 approved that "Only the 2021CBWP funded activities will be moved to the 2022CBWP...". More information regarding the financial situation is provided in the CB Finance Report (doc. CBSC19-09.1).

A Project Team under the CBSC has been established to draft a revised Capacity Building Strategy (CBS). The new CBS should be adapted to the new IHO Strategic Plan and aligned with the IHO Strategic Goals.

6. Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH). The 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) approved the adoption of a new work item of Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) to the Work Programme of the IHO CBSC (A-2 Decision 35), and tasked the Secretariat to secure funding through allocation of IHO budget resources available and negotiation of suitable cooperation agreements with interested Member States.

CANADA and IHO signed the Agreement in reference B, now available at the following link: <https://iho.int/en/mou-agreements>. The Agreement secures the funds for the next three years, provides – at Annex A – a Project work-plan for the period 2021-2024, and finally describes a series of activities and initiatives which will enable more women to participate equitably in the field of hydrography and to assume more leadership roles within the hydrographic community.

With IHO CL 20/2021, the Secretariat encouraged the Member States to consider the recommendation of the 2nd Session of the Assembly (A-2 Decision 36) to take part in the Project, which intends to contribute to reduce the imbalance in the participation of women in Hydrography.

IHO Secretariat Infrastructure

7. CB Management System. The IHO Secretariat works to improve the support to the execution of the CBWP by contributing to the development of the CB Management System (CBMS, see doc. CBSC18-08.2) and by improving the IHO GIS and the IHO CIS, with the kind contribution from the RoK and from Japan.

8. IHO cb.iho.int Server. The service provider of the server that has been established in the Secretariat to host the online training material is experiencing some connectivity problems. It will be again available to support the IHO Member States and the RHC through the Regional capacity building coordinators soon.

Action Requested of CBSC

9. CBSC is invited to:
- **Note** this report,
 - **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.