

**20TH MEETING OF THE IHO-CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO CBSC20**

VTC (HYBRID MEETING), 1 - 3 JUNE 2022

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. Since the last CBSC annual meeting (CBSC19), Kenya, Iraq, Angola and Albania (cfr. IHO CL 18/2022) acceded to the IHO Convention and the IHO membership now stands at 98. Unfortunately, Serbia, Syria and Vanuatu remain suspended from Member States rights.
2. The IHO Secretariat, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist those non-IHO Member States with the application process for membership of the IHO, as currently underway towards several non-IHO Member States in several hydrographic regions, and stands ready to pay High Level Visits to those States not yet IHO Member States. All CB Coordinators are kindly invited to encourage and propose to the IHO Secretariat High Level Visits to those States not yet IHO Member States.

Outcomes of the 5th Meeting and preparation of the 6th Meeting of the IHO Council

3. Among the items to be discussed were the proposals from HSSC, IRCC and the Secretariat for delivery of the Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs) assigned to each of those bodies for the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan, as well as the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade (2021-2030) for the development of digital products and services. Following bilateral talks between the Chair and Council Members, the Chair informed the Council that Member States stressed the need for IHO to support basic Capacity Building while also supporting the migration to S-100. The role of the RENCs had been a subject of discussion, and RENC representatives had therefore been invited by the Chair to attend the session as observers. The sixth meeting of the IHO Council is scheduled to take place in Monaco, from 18 to 20 October 2022.

Preparation of the Third IHO Assembly

4. The third session of the IHO Assembly (A-3) will take place in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco from Tuesday 25 April to Friday 28 April 2023. The Assembly is the principal decision-making organ of the IHO (Article V of the Convention on the IHO), and it is essential that all IHO Member States are represented not only to review the past activities of the Organization, but also to adopt an effective and realistic IHO Work Programme and Budget for the next three years, and then to formulate and adopt appropriate Resolutions. All the details on the preparation and conduct of A-3 are available on the following IHO webpage <https://iho.int/en/3rd-session-of-the-assembly-2023> where the Assembly Circular Letters (ACLs) are available.

IHO Outreach

5. Considering the impact of digital outreach, in 2021, the IHO saw a clear increase trend in the IHO website views, as well as on LinkedIn, Facebook and on Twitter impressions on posts.

6. There were also several actions to raise awareness about the IHO's work to a broader audience. The Secretariat has increased its presence on social media through articles and news about its working groups, committees and subcommittees, as well as the participation in regional and global initiatives that refer to Hydrography, especially in the framework of the UN Ocean Decade. The Secretariat organized an online conference as part of the UN Ocean Decade Laboratories "A Predicted Ocean" which highlight how the S-100 Universal Data Model can be used by all ocean disciplines, thereby increasing the use of data and our knowledge of the ocean, and it will take part at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, planned in Lisbon on 27 June to 1 July 2022, with a proper event.

World Hydrography Day

7. As announced with IHO CL 01/2022, the theme for WHD 2022 is as follows:

"Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade"

The theme is designed to highlight the relevant contribution of hydrography as a discipline of applied sciences to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030). The theme offers the opportunity to emphasize the competencies of hydrographers in the gathering and management of marine data and their strengths in technical collaboration on a global scale. The goal is to highlight how hydrography as an applied science supports the sustainable use of the oceans. This can include how up-to-date surveys and data can be used for initiatives for the protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine protected areas, marine spatial data infrastructures, renewable energies, and all other components of the blue economy.

International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

8. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. As it was announced through IHO CL 03/2022, since 5 January 2022 the IHR has a new editor Dr Patrick Westfeld from Germany.

9. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ihr.editor@iho.int.com). The deadlines are:

- end of January for the May Edition
- end of July for the November Edition

10. In order to modernize the image of the International Hydrographic Review, its website (<https://ihr.iho.int/>) was completely revamped. It now includes a new section with articles and notes, allowing readers to view and share individual articles more easily. The IHO Secretariat has also worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, volumes from the entire collections are available online at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

11. Next year, the Review will celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

Capacity Building Programme

12. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme was clearly affected in 2020 and 2021 by the COVID 19 Pandemic. Expenditure in the IHO 2021 CB Work Programme (CBWP) was 15,627.22 Euros, a value that cannot be compared with the previous years.

13. The budget assigned to 2022 has benefited not only from funds not used in CBWP2021, but also from additional resources made available by the Republic of Korea for capacity building activities from the Regional Commissions (the so-called non-earmarked activities). On this regard, the Secretariat has reaffirmed the strong engagement to explore all possible ways to increment the Budget allocated to CB from 2023 onward.

14. In terms of courses managed at IHO Secretariat level, 2 candidates were selected for 2022/2023 Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea, whilst 14 candidates were selected to participate at 13th and 14th GEOMAC courses in Cartography Cat B (see IHO CL 19/2022) sponsored by Nippon Foundation. The selection of 10 candidates for 2022 Cat B Hydrographic Survey Programme sponsored by the Republic of Korea was announced with IHO CL 15/2022. For 2023/2024, the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea will be announced in August 2022.

Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH).

15. 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.

16. 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 two 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.

17. The project includes outreach, contact and learning, including internships, at-sea experiences and train-on-the-job activities (see IHO CLs 47/2021, 07/2022 and 09/2022). A specific webpage (<https://iho.int/en/basic-cb-sc-ewh>) has been set up under the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) for this project. The first year of the EWH project has been completed successfully, with the provision of a workshop on “*Gender balance & Empowering Leaders*” to draw the attention on the importance of reducing gender imbalance in hydrography and more in general in STEM, the hire of an EWH project Assistant to support the implementation of the project’s activities, 1 internship on Outreach, 3 internships related with the review process of submitted programmes to the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), the submission for EWH project to become an UN Ocean Decade Action, and then – as activity around the world offered by the IHO Member States - three opportunities for an at-sea experience on a NOAA hydrographic ship.

IHO e-learning Center

18. Following the improvement made by the e-learning Project Team to advance in the implementation of the center, the IHO e-learning center established at KHOA is now accessible at the following link: <https://elearning.iho.int>, or via the IHO web-site. Member States who have experience in developing and providing e-Learning contents should consider actively sharing contents, resources, and experience with the e-Learning PT. The center is expected to become fully operational by the end of 2022.

Action Requested of CBSC

CBSC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.