

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5 – 9 August 2019**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 3.6.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of ... associated bodies including...SCUFN

The 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted by the Royal Malaysian Navy and Petronas in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5 to 9 August 2019.

The meeting, chaired by Dr Hyun-Chul Han (IOC representative) from the Korean Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM – ROK), was attended by 28 registered participants, which consisted of eleven of the 12 SCUFN members (six IOC and five IHO representatives) and 17 observers, including Mr Shin Tani, Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), Mr Tetsushi Komatsu (IOC Secretariat), Marine Regions and representatives of China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, ROK and Russian Federation. Representatives of NOAA (USA) and KHOA (ROK) in charge of the integration of SCUFN operational web services and GEBCO Gazetteer were also present. Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by Senator Liew Chin Tong, Deputy Minister of Defence (Malaysia). Senator Tong was joined by Vice Admiral Datuk Khairul Anuar bin Yahya, Deputy Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy, Rear Admiral Hanafiah bin Hassan, Chief Hydrographer of Malaysia and Ms Zuhaidah Binti Zulkifli, Senior General Manager, Governance and Strategic Relationships, Malaysia Petroleum Management (MPM), PETRONAS. Senator Tong stressed the importance of the work of SCUFN and called for multilateralism in order to achieve progress amidst a setting of disputes and escalating interest in maritime issues, especially in Southeast Asia region. A specially-prepared montage video<sup>1</sup> was shown as part of the event and mementos were presented to the SCUFN Members.

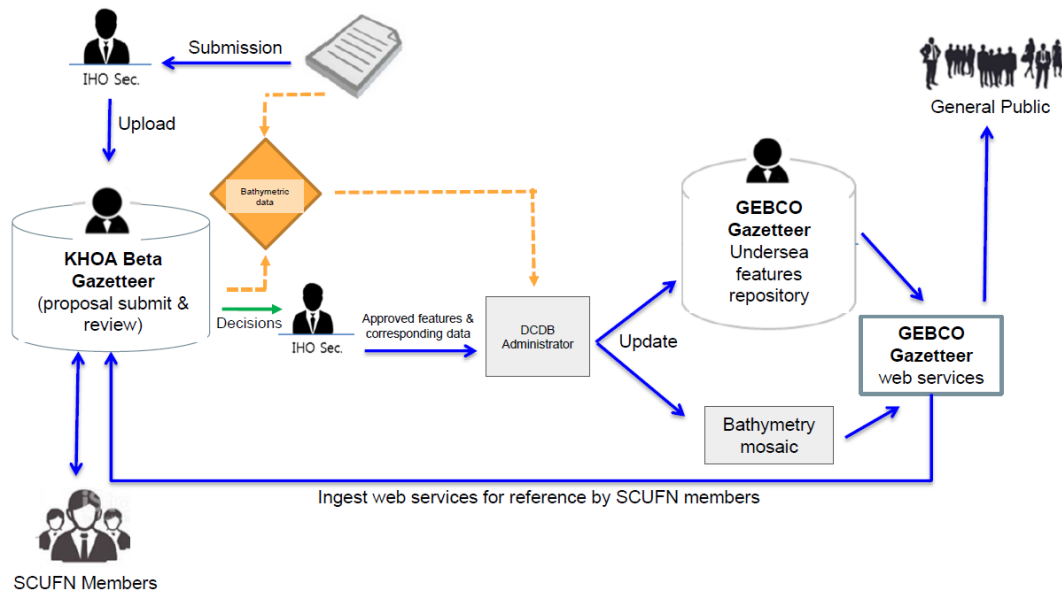


The Sub-Committee considered proposals for 187 undersea feature names, submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations from Argentina (2), Ascension - St Helena (1), Brazil (15), China (35), Germany (1), Japan (52), Japan together with USA (9), Malaysia (2), Philippines (37), Republic of Korea (3), Republic of Palau (11), New Zealand (18) and USA (1).

<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P738YljT3s9bXqScSKWTuxFiHoysrd7y/view>



Thanks to the increasing quality of submissions, a large number of the names proposed to the Sub-Committee were accepted in a very efficient and speedy manner, under the Chairmanship of Dr Han who made the best of the outcome of the pre-review made by SCUFN members through the [scufn.ops-webservices.kr](http://scufn.ops-webservices.kr) assessment interface. SCUFN thanked the NOAA representative for the major enhancements made recently in the GEBCO Gazetteer as well as KHOA representatives for the development of the integration of different SCUFN web services. The general principles of this integration, depicted in the diagram below, were agreed and the full integration aiming to avoid duplication and make the whole process much more efficient, is expected within two years.



In addition to the analysis of naming proposals, the Sub-Committee considered several “corporate” issues, including:

- The first comments received through the voting procedure by the IHO Member States for the adoption of the new edition 4.2.0 of B-6 that includes pragmatic suggestions on the release of associated bathymetric data to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB);
- The importance of multilateral consultations between proposers prior to SCUFN meetings when the feature may be located in areas of mutual interests, such as the South China Sea, otherwise some coastal States will never be in a position to make naming proposals if these cases are systematically categorized as being “politically sensitive” in accordance with SCUFN Rules of Procedures 2.10.

SCUFN noted the statements made by some coastal States by which they wish to be kept informed of the proposals located in their areas of jurisdiction.

SCUFN also agreed on the need to pursue the development of a general strategy and possible guidelines defining the optimal horizontal resolution between undersea features that are eligible for naming. Several objectives need to be considered for this task:

- the consequences of the development of GIS tools (by Canada for instance) able to discover features automatically, as long as the generic term definitions become more geometrically robust, a task which is in the scope of the Undersea Feature Names Project Team and the Generic Term Sub-Group;
- clutter reduction;
- the categorization minor features that can be now unveiled by new sensors technologies.

The GGC will be requested to provide some guidance on this matter as it could impact the SCUFN Terms of Reference.

At the end of the meeting, the Sub-Committee welcomed the offer made by Argentina to host the next meeting in November 2020 in Buenos Aires.