

Report from EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EAHC)

1. Chair

Chair: Dr. KATO Yukihiro (Japan) from September 2018

Vice-Chair: Rear Admiral Agung PRASETIAWAN (Indonesia) from October 2020

2. Membership

Members: Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (provisional)

Observers: Cambodia, Timor Leste, UK, USA, GEBCO Guiding Committee

3. Meetings

Past meetings:

- EAHC ad hoc Video Conference (VTC), 20 January 2021

Planned meetings:

- 3rd EAHC MSDI Working Group Meeting in Vietnam
 - 9th EAHC CHC Meeting in Vietnam
 - 12th EAHC TRDC-BoD Meeting in Thailand
 - 8th EAHC SC Meeting in Thailand
 - 14th EAHC Conference in Japan
- *Dates are to be determined due to the Covid-19 pandemic

4. Current EAHC Working Groups

- Charting and Hydrography Committee (CHC)
- Training and Research Development Committee Board of Director (TRDC-BoD)
- East Asia ENC Coordinating Centre (EA-RECC)
- Strategic Team Advance Roadmap Task Group (STAR TG) *ad hoc
- East Asia Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (EAHC-MSDIWG)
- EAHC Statues Review Working Group (EAHC-SRWG) *ad hoc
- EAHC 50th Task Group (EAHC 50th TG) *ad hoc

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the EAHC)

With regard to the status of IRCC actions, EAHC MSs had a discussion at EAHC ad hoc Video Conference held in January 2021. As shown in item "6. Agenda", IRCC-12 recommendations and actions required to EAHC were introduced and EAHC has no objections against the matters should be implemented by RHCs. Regarding the identification of EAHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator requested from IRCC to provide, no Member States expressed disagreement with that the entity in charge of this matter would be the EAHC Chair. Since this VTC is not a decision-

making meeting, a circular letter will be disseminated for approval.

6. Agenda

a) IRCC actions and recommendations

Summarize of the IRCC-12 actions and recommendations were reported. After discussion on the matters requested from IRCC to the RHC (EAHC), no Member States expressed disagreement with them. Though regional collaboration to solve regional issues is difficult due to Covid-19 pandemic, the EAHC Capacity Building Coordinator will handle CB matters, MSDI issues will be led by the Republic of Korea, and the EAHC Chair must be the leader for other several issues to be taken care of regionally.

b) Capacity building

EAHC implemented no Capacity Building activities in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

EAHC plans to implement Capacity Building activities in 2021 as below;

No.	Events	Date / Venue
1	Developing and Implementing a Regional Framework for Disaster Mitigation and Management	TBD / China or Indonesia
2	Hydrographic Data Managements to Support Disaster Relief	
3	Training for Trainers	November (P) / ROK

c) Crowdsourced bathymetry

At the EAHC ad hoc Video Conference, the IHO Director, Mr. Abri Kampher, presented on crowd-sourced bathymetry and GEBCO support including EAHC Members and observers to indicate their positions on the conduct of CSB in their waters of jurisdiction. EAHC understood that CSB is a high priority issue of IHO. The USA commented that Ms. Jeniffer Jencks of the IHO DCDB requested the EAHC to allocate the CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator. The EAHC Chair will be in charge of this after Member States' approval through a circular letter.

d) EAHC 50th Anniversary in 2021 - Golden Jubilee -

The year 2021 will be the 50th anniversary for the establishment of the EAHC. EAHC has established "EAHC 50th celebration Task Group" (EAHC 50th TG) led by Japan for the preparation and consideration of EAHC 50th events. Indonesia will create a memorial video with ROK's technical support, and Malaysia will print a coffee table book to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the EAHC and Japan will collect EAHC historical photos with short explanations to be included in the book.

e) EAHC Strategic Plan

EAHC SC4 in 2017 agreed to the ToR of “Strategic Team Advance Roadmap (STAR) Task Group” to develop a Strategic Plan of EAHC and associated key objectives for EAHC to meet future needs. At the EAHC ad hoc Video Conference, the Chair proposed the goals of EAHC; evolving support of safety navigation, increasing the use of the data, and participating actively in IHO and other international initiatives. The Chair also proposed how to achieve goals as a region, especially involving coordination and cooperation among the ENC, MSI and INT. Members States will be invited to provide comments on the proposals.

7. Conclusions

The EAHC continues to keep and strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among hydrographic offices in the region.

8. Actions required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to note this report.