



13th Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

Report of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group

Agenda Item 5.8

HSSC-13, VTC Event, 3 – 7 May 2021



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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Due to the impossibility of conducting regular work, the WG activities have been shared between the departing Chairman and his Deputy (and replacement).
2. Harmonisation of S-32 HD / IHO GI Registry through the Concept Registry Domain Control Body has been continued under the responsibility of Suzie Lyu Yu Xiao, including minor changes such as these resulting from the addition of S-44 Ed 6.0 new terms. This consisted of developing the entire updating procedure allowing HD terms to be submitted and updated to the multilingual HD database, through maintaining close liaison with the IHO GI Registry. Pending confirmation by further Beta testing involving other members of the Working Group when appropriate, and development of conceptual data interface by RoK, the S-32 IHO Hydrographic Dictionary database is now harmonised with the IHO GI Registry.
3. Jean Laporte is pursuing his own contribution to the 3-year IHO Work Programme consisting of reviewing the current dictionary. This classification task combined with the French HD update shall take about 600 hrs and cannot be shared conveniently.



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PROBLEMS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The HD Guiding Principles have been set as the HSSC 12/58 decision, i.e. **maintaining the Hydrographic Dictionary in its present encyclopaedic structure rather than downgrading it to a simpler glossary.** This makes the Hydrographic Dictionary a unique international concept encapsulating in equal footing the World's varied cultures and languages.
2. The IHO HD reference, using unspecific English as a working tool, must remain politically neutral and keep all its existing terms for historical reasons but national variants are free to cater for passing fads and interpretations and even suppression of terms some countries find disputable.
3. The vocation and responsibilities of the HDWG towards the international hydrographic community is reflected by the IHO Member States' growing interest, unfortunately kept on hold by the current pandemic.

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PROBLEMS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES: MOTIVATION

- The difficulty is to maintain interest in a Working Group that hasn't met for two years
- Ongoing work includes fundamentals such as creating an Arabic dictionary, and initiating other national versions (Japanese, Korean)
- Consensus between cultural families, e.g. Arabic, English, French, Spanish, is to be sought
- Reaching out to fill the main Slavonic gap.
- To resume activities and recreate a dynamics, the best alternative is to organise a face-to-face meeting: Guangzhou 2021 or 2022.

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FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

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1. Make the HDWG survive the current pandemic.
2. Continue harmonising the S-32 HD / IHO GI Registry
3. Advance the one-man-band S-32 Hydrographic Dictionary review (tasks b,c,d of the ongoing work programme)
4. Liaise with other IHO working groups as appropriate.
5. Lobby for the resumption of HDWG activities when life returns to normal.



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ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM HSSC

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1. Take stock of this report
2. Support the 2021 or 2022 Guangzhou face-to-face meeting.
3. Approve the permutation of Chair / Vice-chair at the next Guangzhou meeting (“Susie” Lu Yuxiao / Jean Laporte).
4. Complete uploading national HD versions on the IHO website.