

**REPORT OF THE 29th MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO/ICA  
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD OF STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE  
FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

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3. Appendix VIII IAB Work Programmes 2006-2007

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**1. Location and attendance**

The XXIX meeting of the FIG/IHO/ICA Advisory Board was hosted by the National Hydrographic Office of India and held at the Kenilworth Hotel, Goa., from 10 to 14 April 2006. The following were present :

Capt. Andy Armstrong (Chairman) (IHO)  
Mr. Gordon Johnston (Vice-Chairman) (FIG)  
Capt. Federico Bermejo (Secretary) (IHB)

**FIG Members**

Dr. Razali Mahmud  
Ms. Tiina Tuurnala

**IHO Members**

Cdre. Brahma  
Dr. Luciano Surace  
Dr. Delf Egge

**ICA Members**

Mr. Ron Furness  
Dr. Lysandros Tsoulos

**2. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The National Hydrographer of India, Rear Admiral Rao opened the meeting and welcomed the Board. He stressed the importance of opening a meeting of the high-level international bodies dealing with training and education, He pointed out the importance of the work of the Board, producing and maintaining standards to guide the execution of works that provide important data for the economic development of maritime countries. He also stressed that India considers Capacity Building in general as one major objective to be achieved in the next few years.

The Chairman thanked Admiral Rao for his words and opened the meeting

**3. Agenda and Administrative Arrangements**

The Agenda was adopted with some minor amendments. A conference room and secretarial facilities were provided by the Indian H.O.

Visits to the National Hydrographic School and to the Oceanographic Institute of Goa were scheduled during the week.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the activities related to training and education carried out between meetings.

He noted the inter-sessional activities of the Executive Team, formed by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary who had met twice to discuss IAB matters and to prepare documents for the consideration of the Board members. **The IAB agreed that the meetings of the Executive Team should continue during the next inter-sessional period.**

## 5. Recognitions expired

Reference was made to the Course in Hydrography of the International Maritime Academy (Trieste). This course had been recognized at Category B in 1993 and therefore had to pass re-recognition in 2003 as the latest. Although delay had been agreed by the Board in two occasions, no further information or communication has been received from IMA and therefore the IAB decided that the recognition of that course should expire. **A letter will be sent by the Chairman to the authorities of IMA, informing them of this decision.**

## 6. Membership

The Board was informed that a new member had been appointed in replacement of Dr. Dave Wells that resigned from the Board for personal reasons. Mr. Adam Greenland, at present Chairman of FIG Commission IV is the new Board member. **A letter will be sent to FIG to make official the appointment of Mr. Greenland.**

## 7. Communications

The Board wondered if a part of the information included in the IAB page on the IHO Web site could be freely accessed and the Secretary was tasked to investigate about this possibility.

## 8. Terms of Reference

The Secretary recalled that some elements of the present Terms of Reference should be changed. However, amended ToRs for the IAB have been now prepared within the framework of an IHO re-structuring following approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention, in 2005. The IAB in the new structure will report to a Main Committee called ICCBC and the proposal will be examined at the next IHO Conference (May 2007).

**It was therefore decide to wait for the decisions of the Conference and, if necessary, consider this matter after that event.**

## 9. IAB Strategic Plan and Work Programme.

The document "IAB Strategic Plan and Work Programme" prepared by the Secretary was considered. **The IAB decided that it was not necessary to create a Strategic Plan for the IAB** and that emphasis should be made on the Draft Work Programme.

It was also agreed that the IAB Terms of Reference and other elements that are at present included in the "Standards of Competence " (IHO publication M-5), such as the Mission and Vision should be deleted and inserted in a separate IAB Information Document to be posted in the IHO Web Site. **The Secretary will be in charge of this action.**

The Board reviewed the Draft Work Programmes for 2006 and 2007 It was also agreed that the study of regional needs for training could be based on the reports from the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions. The IAB Secretary was therefore tasked to compile such information from the mentioned reports.

**Both Programmes were approved (See Annex 2)**

## 10. M-6 status

The IAB Vice-Chairman, Mr. Johnston explained his work on this Data base and requested

Board members to review the contents and send him their comments by the end of August 2006.

## 11. Review of courses

### 1. Course In Hydrography for Naval Officers of the Indonesian Navy (SEHIDRAL)

The Board completed the reviewing of this course, that was pending since 2005, with the consideration of new information provided by the Indonesian Navy.

The Board agreed to award re-recognition to this course at Category B with Options 1 and 2.

### 2. Course of Hydrography for Naval Officers of the Tunisian Hydrographic Service

The Advisory Board reviewed the course submitted at Category B and Option 1 and decided to award recognition upon written clarification of some items identified. A letter will be sent to the Head of the Hydrographic Service to inform him about this decision.

### 3. Basic Hydrographic Course (Cat B) and the Long Hydrographic Course (Cat A) of the National Hydrographic School (India)

The Board congratulated the National Hydrographic School of India on the excellent submission and awarded re-recognition to both programmes at Cat B with Options 1 and 6 and at Cat A with Options 1, 2 and 3. The Board also thanked the re-submission of the Courses in advance of the 10 years period agreed.

## 12. Review of M-5 “Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors” and M-8 “Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers”

### 1. M-8. “Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers”

The Board examined a set of amendments proposed by the Board members to M-8 and, after endorsement, were incorporated to the Standards.

### 2. M-5 “Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors”

The following items were included in the Agenda for consideration of the Board:

- a) Guidelines for submission of courses
- b) Guidelines for unclassified courses
- c) Recognition period

a) “Guidelines for submission of courses” was a text prepared in 2005 and intended to be a new Appendix of M-5. The Board felt that the “Standards” are not the best place for such a document and **decided to approve the content as an “Information Document” to be displayed in the future the IHO Web site.** However, M-5 will make a special mention of this document in item 3.2.1.)

b) Discussion was held on the need to agree on an international recognition for courses of inferior duration and content that the present Cat A and B. The Board decided that this was a topic pertaining to national consideration and interest and that there was not any need for international recognition. **It was also felt that the Board should not provide general guidelines for the establishment of such courses and that such advice could be provided as at present, on a case by case basis.**

**The Chairman will write a letter to T.D. Taylor (NAVOCEANO) and R.T. Brennan (NOAA) to thank them their collaboration in this matter.**

c) The Board agreed that it was time to consider shortening the period of re-recognition for courses. The Standards actually fix a period of 5 years for such re-submission, but to-date, the period had been extended to 10 years to allow both courses and the Board to cope with the overload.

It was unanimously agreed to reduce now the period of recognition and in principle, a period of 6 years was adopted.

**The planning of reduction in steps will be worked by the IAB Executive Team and forwarded to the Board members for consideration and approval.** It is expected to implement the new period from the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting (2007) onwards.

Another point of study for the Working Group will be the provision of certificates to the attendants to modules of a programme (see paragraph 4 d.). **A letter will be written to Mr. Taylor on this matter.**

c) At the request of Dr. Tsoulos, the Board considered the need to request an “Internal Assessment” of courses from national institutions in the recognition period, under the general principle that all national institutions should be able to carry out an internal review to which the Board could provide guidelines”.

Members of the Board explained that in many of their countries, this system is already established and performed by audit teams.

Dr. Tsoulos was tasked to develop a proposal addressing this subject for further consideration of the Board members at the next meeting.

d) Appendix 3 of the Standards “Guidelines for Practical experience” was also reviewed by the IAB and several changes made.

### **13. Individual Recognition. Presentation from the AHSCP. Discussion of the IAB**

The Board was presented with a comprehensive overview of the Australasian Hydrographic Certification Surveyors Panel (AHSCP) and its Individual Certification process by John McCarthy. He outlined the various entry techniques, the assessment process and the form of the panel members. He provided a set of the guidelines and documentation for the Board members to review. The presentation covered the key areas of the system and Mr. McCarthy presented a well thought out and very interesting programme for the Board to consider.

The situation is that around the world a number of systems and schemes are already in place and there is a growing desire by individuals, especially those within the FIG framework, to become members of these and to be able to monitor and assess their career progression with respect to a set of Standards.

There followed a full and in depth discussion by the Board members on the whole issue of the

recognition of Individuals and the various issues relating to the recognition by the Board of schemes and systems. Many points were raised and discussed from the methods to monitor and assess the experience of the individual, the assessment of the actual system and the links to the FIG/IHO/ICA Standards of Competence.

The Board agreed that it should move forward with Individual Recognition but was undecided as to the best approach on the methods and means by which an organisation would submit and be assessed for recognition and how any observations or requirements necessary to achieve recognition may be implemented into an ongoing and operational system.

In summary the Board considers it may be possible to assess Individual Competence and Experience systems rather than the individuals directly. **Accordingly the members are to consider how best to progress this important issue and to develop constructive ideas so that at the next meeting a clear statement can be made and guidelines developed.**

#### **14. Date/Venue of the next meeting**

Confirmation was given by Prof. Delf Egge to the previous schedule for the 2007 meeting in Hamburg (Germany).

The dates for the meeting were fixed tentatively during the last week in June.

#### **15. Close of the meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11:00 on 14 April 2006.

**APPENDIX I. LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>FAX/ e-mail</b>
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## APPENDIX II.

### **FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2006-2007**

The Work Programme is to be established for a 3 years period, which is the duration period expected for its Chairman. It includes entries for each of the IAB working areas. As a first approach, it has been displayed for 2006 and 2007, on which the first period of the present Chairman expires

#### **WP for 2006-2007**

1. Finalize the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of M5
2. Produce a new updated version of M6 in form of data base.
3. Study of the geographical distribution of courses recognized and focus on the weakest areas to encourage the establishment of new courses. (This should be a permanent task)
4. Review of courses
5. Study of "Individual recognition" preparing a proposal to be submitted to the parent organizations.
6. Prepare the IAB Work Programme for the following period.
7. Contribution to Development of IHO 5-year programme 2008-2012

#### **WP for 2007-2008**

1. Prepare the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of M8
2. Produce a new updated version of S47 in form of data base.
3. Study of the geographical distribution of courses recognized and focus on the weakest areas to encourage the establishment of new courses. (This should be a permanent task)
4. Review of courses
5. Implement procedures for individual recognition (if approved)
6. Study of financial mechanisms for the IAB.
7. Study the need to request an "Internal Assessment" of courses from national institutions in the recognition period