

## **Minutes of Workshop on the economic benefits of Hydrography**

Held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006 during the XIII International FIG Congress,  
Munich Congress Centre, Munich, Germany

Present were

David Neale	University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
Jerry Mills	U.S. NOAA Hydrographic Surveys
Andy Armstrong	US NOAA Joint t Hydrographic Center, UNH
Steve Shipman	IHB
Hugo Gorziolia	IHB
Ermin Heine	BOKV University, Vienna, Austria
Vanessa O'Connell	Sydney Port Authority
Wilfried Ellmer	Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Gordon Johnston	Venture Geomatics Limited
Adam Greenland	Land Information New Zealand, Chair Commission 4
Andrew Leyzack	Canadian Hydrographic Service, Vice Chair Commission 4
Okokon Essien	Survey directorate, UYO Nigeria
Emem Isang	EMEM ISANG K Co. Lagos, Nigeria
Volker Boder	Hafencity University
Ignatious Nhyere	Tanzania Ports Authority
Ross Ritchie	Lauveston City Council, Tasmania Australia
Harry Wirth	Federal Institute of Hydrologies, Germany
Onyekwere Njoku	Soloku Development Corporation, Nigeria
John Mc Carthy	Mapping and Hydrographic Surveys, Australia
Carlos Rodriguez	Distrital University, Bogota Columbia

The workshop session began at about 1410 in the Konigsee Room at the Munich Congress Centre.

The workshop was introduced by Andrew Leyzack incoming Chair of Commission 4. After detailing the workshop arrangements he introduced Mr. Gordon Johnston who gave an overview presentation on the subject. During the overview Mr. Johnston highlighted some of the challenges facing smaller states in justifying the need for and participating in the conduct of hydrographic surveys. He pointed to the on-going work of the IHO, in particular the work of its many regional conferences around the world. His presentation included a review of some of the ethnical issues as well as the institutional issues that faced many countries in realising the potential economic benefits of hydrography.

Immediately following Mr. Johnston's presentation, the workshop audience was split into two groups and each was asked to consider how can we do as marine professionals to demonstrate the economic effects of hydrography.

Each group appointed a note-taker and spent about 20 minutes preparing a broad list of issues and action items that marine professional may wish to consider as a contribution to a solution.

The combined feedback for both groups is as follows:

- That it be recognized that in a historical sense, disasters are the most common reasons why institutions consider investing in hydrographic capability.
- That an anecdotal model of benefits can be derived from an examination of case studies that may be documents in repositories around the world.
- That ‘risk assessments’ are useful tools in identifying hydrographic needs and as such should be encouraged. Included in such risk assessments should be long term issues such as sea level rise.
- The notion of a ‘willingness to pay’ is an important factor in establishing hydrographic survey budgets. Indeed, willing to charge complicates the scenario particularly in jurisdictions where competition is high as say in the case of ports trying to attract business by gaining edge over other operators.
- It is also useful for hydrographers to participate in port conferences, including participation as presenters (of technical papers) and roundtable discussions with other port and merchant marine professionals.
- That the important role of marine pilots as allies be recognized.
- That there is a need for hydrographers to actively support the work of the IHO and indeed raise an awareness of the IHO worldwide.
- That hydrographers provide examples of the costs of remedial actions when hydrographic data collection is absent.
- That often, ‘one cap may not fit all’ – there may be a need to identify specific problem drivers and relate them to specific countries or jurisdictions.
- That there is an important role for the FIG in play in offering assistance of all kinds.
- That where possible, the publication of scholarly and high profile articles that detail the economic benefits of hydrography be pursued.

The workshop ended at 1545 hrs with participants being asked to consider the implementation of items on the list generated by the groups.