

## Notes

## International Technical Assistance and Co-operation – Fifteen Years of Joint FIG/IHO Work in TACC - a Survey

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This report provides information about the work of the FIG/IHO\*\* Technical Assistance and Cooperation Coordination Committee (TACC) from its formation to ending in the year 2002. The technical advisory committee of co-operation has promoted the need for hydrography, especially in developing countries, in both the public and private sector. TACC has now ceased its work.

FIG, represented by Commission 4 (Hydrography), has decided that it is no longer in a position to provide financial assistance to members participating in the TACC Committee. Therefore it has been decided that FIG withdraws from the TACC. An updated cooperation arrangement with the IHO may be established in a future Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). More information is available on the Web ([www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)).

### Introduction

The work was initially based on a report by Rear Admiral G.S. Ritchie, who stated, that developing countries must themselves perform hydrographic surveying in their own national waters (FIG Congress Stockholm, 1977).

A group of UN experts considered the matter of improved cooperation in 1978. They discussed the problem in connec-

tion with the safety of navigation. They found, that since their independence, there was less cooperation between former colonial countries and newly independent countries in coastal hydrographic tasks. In a parallel development, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) gave all maritime nations the task of managing their own exclusive economic zone. Also, new rules for hydrographic surveying were created by IHO and FIG. IHO recommended more hydrographic capacity for coastal developing countries. Unfortunately, the UN Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific noted in 1987, that while there was support and acceptance by international groups such as the UN, IMO, IHO, FIG, there were no activities recorded of developing countries carrying out their own hydrography.

In 1982, after forming FIG WG 418, directed at providing technical assistance, FIG contacted the IHO. The background for this activity was the excellent cooperation already established in the FIG/IHO International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors, initiated in 1977. FIG and IHO agreed that problems for hydrographic surveying in developing countries mainly depended on the lack of worldwide coordination of the activities. Prior to the developments in 1987, FIG

\* Member (FIG) of former FIG/IHO International Technical Assistance and Cooperation Coordination Committee (TACC)

\*\* FIG = Fédération Internationale des Géomètres/ IHO = International Hydrographic Organization

Commission 4 'Hydrographic Surveying', now 'Hydrography' (Chairman Thomas D.W. McCulloch/Canada) and the IHO (President, Sir David Haslam) agreed, to support Hydrography by upgraded, improved international co-operation. On August 17, 1989, the founding meeting of TACC was held in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting was attended by the initiators Thomas D.W. McCulloch (FIG) and Rear Admiral A. Civetta for Sir David Haslam (IHO) as well as M. R. Hassan, H. ten Hoopen, K. Millen, W. Schleider, R. M. Sterling (all representatives of FIG).

The main target of TACC was to increase awareness in developing countries of the need for hydrography for the safety of navigation and also for tasks arising in connection with the environment, coastal research and coastal engineering. The name of the group since 1990 has been the 'FIG/IHO International Technical Assistance and Cooperation Coordination Committee (TACC)'. The last meeting of the committee was held in Mobile, Alabama, USA in 1999. Tasks of the group were established as follows:

### **Main Work Schedule for TACC**

The basis of the work were the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Terms of Procedure (ToP), updated as required by TACC and accepted by FIG and IHO. Terms of Procedure (ToP) could be changed by TACC itself with majority consent. There have been no problems with these rules. The language of work was English.

TACC carried out the following activities: a) provides permanent contacts all over the world on upcoming hydrography and support by rules of development, b) provides support on technical questions of hydrography and encourages good co-operation between donor institutions and international organisations, to get funds for hydrographic surveying in developing countries, c) supports co-operation between countries with small developed hydrographic capability and donor countries, d) creates and maintains a hydrographic data base, containing information on projects in the complete field of hydrography, support for donor countries, national and international institutions, NGO's, to get an optimum level of support, to prevent the duplication of developments in work and funding.

The FIG/IHO TACC and Regional Hydrographic Commissions of IHO agreed to provide information

on hydrographic developments, observed by TACC in their region. The permanent TACC secretariat was provided by the IHB. Activities of TACC were published in IHO and FIG publications and their respective web sites.

### **TACC Membership and Meetings**

In addition to a Chairman and a Vice Chairman, there were 6 members, selected by FIG and 6 members selected by the IHO. IHO and FIG decide individually on the period of membership for their members. During the last period from 1999 to 2002 the Chairman was Dennis St. Jacques (FIG), Canada, and the Vice Chairman was Rear Admiral Giuseppe Angrisano, (IHO). The Secretary was Captain Federico Bermejo, (IHB). Other members came from France, Germany, Japan, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Meetings have always been held in conjunction with other events on Hydrography. The first meeting was held in Helsinki/Finland, 1990 (FIG), the second one in Southampton/UK (HYDRO), Madrid/Spain 1992 (FIG), Toronto/Canada 1993 (SMC/CHS Conference) and Aberdeen/UK (HYDRO), Melbourne/Australia 1994 (FIG), Berlin/ Germany 1995 (FIG), Buenos Aires/Argentina 1996 (FIG), Monaco/Monaco 1997 (IHC), Tokyo/ Japan 1998 (JHD) and Brighton/UK 1998 (FIG), Mobile/USA 1999 (NOAA/THSA Symposium).

Members of the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions attended the meetings on several occasions.

### **TACC Working Groups**

In the last period three Working Groups have been established to:

- 1) Observe hydrographic development worldwide, and consider rules for development
- 2) Support good technical work in Hydrography and help for funding developing hydrographic projects between donor and host institutions
- 3) Encourage the development of cooperation in Hydrography between countries/institutions with higher standards in hydrography and developing countries for upgrading; monitoring

WG's worked on pilot projects and with the agree-

ment of TACC members. Participation in the WG's came from: Canada, Germany, Monaco, Mozambique, The Netherlands and the USA.

Regular communication was by the Internet. E-mail provided a better means of international contact, than the traditional means by telephone, letter or fax; providing fast communication, regardless of the distance, very low costs, good information for all members by carbon copies and no problems with world time zone differences. Meetings were held in Malta (2000); Germany, The Netherlands and Tanzania (2001); Germany, The Netherlands and The United States (2002). During the FIG Commission 4 meeting at HYDRO 2002, Kiel in October 2002, the members of FIG, who were former members of TACC, were informed about the TACC Data Base (Dirk J. Bakker, NL) and the TACC guideline monitoring to promote hydrography in developing countries (Wilfried H. Schleider, Germany).

### Coordination of Support and Co-operation

On the last occasion, that TACC reported on international co-operation it noted assistance recorded by the IHB and provided by Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, Germany, The Netherlands, France, New Zealand on the following projects:

- Safety of navigation on Lake Victoria; co-operation in West and Central Africa
- Technical workshop for the Red Sea and Gulf Region; Cooperation on Black Sea
- MEDA Project 7 for the Mediterranean Sea
- Observing group for the Caribbean Region
- Study FIG/IHO Level B in France, Bangladesh and Vietnam
- Creation of a hydrographic office in Sri Lanka;
- Co-operation on problems with nautical depth measurements in Venezuela
- High flood problems in Bangladesh
- Hydrographic and cartographic aspects and training in Mozambique
- Nautical mapping in Vietnam
- Problems of water level correction in Surinam;
- Hydrographic and mapping training for students from Fiji, Tonga, Malaysia, Thailand and Solomon Islands

TACC created a Data Base on technical develop-

ments and assistance that has been established at IHB in Monaco.

The technical planning for the Data Base is nearly complete and includes the following features:

It is planned to first carry out an actual overview on assistance provided for hydrographic surveys, bathymetric charts and maps and projects on nautical information.

Information on training and hydrographic courses worldwide and the possibility of on-the-job-training will be documented. Also, there will be information on hydrographic equipment etc, to rent or loan.

Internet information could provide information on financial support by the World Bank or EU or other national donor institutions.

A copy of the Data Base was made available by Dirk J. Bakker to FIG Commission 4 at the meeting in Kiel, October 2002. Further input may be expected from the IHO and possibly from Commission IV, FIG.

### Conclusion

Developments during the last 25 years, that is since the FIG Congress Sweden 1977, have been satisfactory. Nevertheless, technology on Hydrography in developing countries is often only established at a minimum level. In future it is necessary for the hydrographic community to co-operate on the goal of improved safety of navigation, as well as planning for the management of the coastal zones e.g. for construction and engineering, environmental protection and for scientific studies. This work includes the management of the entire exclusive economic zones.

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