

Rectification

We sincerely regret that in the November issue of IHR, an old editorial was published. Printed below is the editorial as it should have been released.

Editorial

The development and composition of an issue of this Review is always subject to the availability of well written material and subsequently to the careful review and comments by the author's peers. This issue, like others before it, demonstrates the wide scope of hydrographic interest, from field surveying methodology to the present day complexities of data management. The Review hopefully serves as an ongoing record of advances in our profession worldwide and though we have today the marvels of Internet communication, it is questionable whether it will provide such a concrete and permanent record as the hard copy publication. It was therefore with some surprise that it became clear at a recent conference, how few copies were being requested by and distributed to some of the Hydrographic Offices that had potential readers in many parts of these regionally distributed organisations.

On the grounds that most readers will have an interest in the history of their profession, a paper on that matter is always sought to lead off the more technical discussions to follow. In this issue the historical subject is on surveys in the Mediterranean in the war torn period of the early nineteenth century. What is remarkable in those days of sail and leadline, just how many ports were surveyed.

From history we moved to that thoroughly modern exchange of ideas that takes place in the Shallow Water Conference series. These conferences, base many of their discussions on survey and data management processes of a particular set of data. The recent conference was held at Plymouth, UK and we have been given permission to reproduce the Opening Address by the President of the IHO. Once again the University of New Hampshire showed itself as the active source of several of the key papers, discussing subjects such as the navigation surface and the CUBE software and its application. One wonders, why such centres of hydrographic excellence are not being considered for other parts of the world. Through the FIG/IHO Advisory Board on Standards of Competence, the community has now developed a cadre of qualified and competent people entering the profession. However the need for more emphasis on research and development remains outstanding.

In this issue the reader may find subjects ranging from analytical methods of detecting historical changes in the seafloor topography to different approaches being taken towards Capacity Building. The use of LIDAR in the production of modern charts is the subject of another paper. Closely associated with that matter is an assessment of the capability to detect objects using LIDAR. Some surprising findings on apparent LIDAR shortcomings in that respect, were discussed at the Shallow Water conference and will appear in the next issue of this Review as a published paper. Recent global disasters have become the subjects of topical papers describing the geology and geophysics associated with the Asian tsunami and also a discussion on the part that hydrography plays in maritime disaster management, whether the disasters be caused by tsunamis or hurricanes.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor

