

### Editorial

This is the first issue of the International Hydrographic Review to be produced in a digital form only. The format will be quite similar to previous hard copy versions. It will be posted on the IHO Web and access will be free. Once a year the IH Bureau will produce a compendium of all papers for the year in hard copy format but this will, for the time being, only be made available to Member States Hydrographic Offices.

The acquisition of good copy remains difficult and contributions are encouraged. Nevertheless the papers available in this issue do cover a wide variety of subjects interesting to the hydrographic community. One of the ongoing developments of acoustic multibeam systems achieved by tilting the transducers is described in one paper. This technique is gaining in interest, particularly for surveys in rivers and other areas where precise surveys are needed in a confined space. General interest in ways to measure sea level is brought to light in an international programme which uses trends in long term water level recording over a wide area from West Africa to Pakistan. Basic mathematical approaches to geodesy are described in a paper which proposes new meridian arc formulas that may have a place in calculations used by modern digital navigational chart systems. A description of the national approach of Greece to Vessel Traffic Systems provides some commentary on how one country with major shipping interests is planning its future control of marine traffic.

An important Note concludes the contents of the issue. This note describes IHO Special Publication 100, the new Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data.

It includes a description of plans to migrate from the existing and very important S-57 standard. The production and maintenance of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) is today a most important function of Hydrographic Offices and consequently geospatial standards such as S-57 and now, S-100, are of fundamental importance.

Readers of this digital journal are encouraged to consider contributing articles on any subject that will interest the hydrographic community. The careful and detailed recording of technology is seen as both historically important and provides an opportunity to transfer technology. Prospective authors should not be intimidated by any language difficulties as these can be handled in the editorial process. Reports of work in progress in developing countries are equally important as those coming from the more developed countries.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor

