

## Editorial

Considerable assistance in obtaining material for this issue must be attributed to The Hydrographic Society of America which invited the Editor to its Conference at Norfolk, USA, in 2009. This assistance is very much appreciated. This issue includes papers that have been developed from that assembly and may therefore have a bias towards North American hydrographic practice. Modern methods of vertical control have been given attention and also the use of oceanographic parameters as a means to improve the quality of soundings. Methods of improving multibeam data continue to get the attention of researchers, as does the ubiquitous CUBE algorithm in data management. The Center of Excellence at the University of New Hampshire continues to be behind much of the new hydrographic thinking, although the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of New Brunswick in Canada continue to contribute to the profession. One wonders why the academic field is not so visible in European hydrography. Possibly it may be less cohesive and that government agencies have not focussed it so well as has been done in North America. An interesting paper with a strong environmental slant, discussing the monitoring of shipwrecks comes from an Italian author. As similar work is going on in other countries this paper has benefitted from an extensive review.

Reviewed in this issue is a comprehensive examination of the Electronic Chart and Display System (ECDIS). This comes from a Polish professor/mariner teaching at the Navigation Department of Gdynia maritime University.

Finally we are able to reflect on the life of one the most well known Hydrographers of our age, that of Rear Admiral Sir David Haslam. His remarkable life both as an accomplished hydrographer and as a humanitarian is outlined in the Obituary.

Hopefully readers of this issue, the second to be produced in a digital form, will recognise the merit of keeping the International Hydrographic Review afloat as a means of recording the important aspects of hydrography, both technically and socially. Finally a word should be said about the peer review process that is so essential to ensure the high quality of papers being published. The Editorial team continues in place for the time being and its members have been able to encourage the assistance of knowledgeable reviewers. The idea of recruiting reviewers from the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions is slowly moving into focus thanks to assistance from the International Hydrographic Bureau. The Bureau itself has had to take on the task of moving the edited papers on to the IHO Web and this seems to have occurred smoothly, making all the published material freely available to the hydrographic community.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor

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