

Greeting from the IHO Directing Committee

Less than two years after the birth of the IHO, 100 years ago in 1923, the then 22 Member States of the International Hydrographic Bureau decided to launch a technical bulletin, the Hydrographic Review, with the primary purpose of communicating to their community the importance of a young science – the Hydrography – and its scientists – the Hydrographers –, unknown to most at the time, but which would in time attract the attention of the international scientific and maritime communities.

Reading from the very first issue of the International Review in 1923, it was clear how much the small hydrographic community would have to work to convince the world of the importance and usefulness of such discipline: “... to others the meaning of the word “Hydrographic” is not so evident ...” and “... Recently I asked a British graduate of Cambridge, to give me his conception of the word “Hydrographic”, but apparently he was quite unfamiliar with the expression ...”. Such statements had a bitter taste, a harbinger of enormous efforts required on the part of early 20th century hydrographers.

In its first 100 years, the journal continuously evolved, modernised and opened up to the hydrographic, maritime and scientific world. Just to mention a few milestones, in 1947, the journal changed its name and became *The International Hydrographic Review* (IHR), wearing for the first time an international dress, decidedly aimed no longer only at the narrow hydrographic community, but the introduction of subjects and disciplines resulting from the tremendous experience of the Second World War that had just ended.

It was in the 1970s that the Review began to gain true international recognition, publishing original works on all aspects of hydrography and associated subjects, ranging from the latest technical developments to history. This was mainly the result of the gradual enlargement of the membership of the IHO, the consolidation and recognition of the other international organizations involved on and for the sea that were established between the 1950s and 1960s (i.e. IMO, WMO, IALA, IOC), and the increasingly widespread and systematic use of technologies applied to positioning, navigation and sound systems in hydrographic surveys.

Since the 2000s went digital, and in 2009 to be precise, the IHR became a web-based publication, with its two annual issues accessible to all and free of charge. As the most recent evolutionary step in 2021, on the occasion of the celebrations of the IHO's centenary, the new IHR website was launched. Today, using communication and the many social networks on which the IHO is present, the IHR and its articles are presented to the international community and commented on, with an immediate return in terms of popularity and content.

Finally, a note of credit goes to the editors who have succeeded one another over the years, to all those who have contributed in the first 100 years of the Review's life, and to the passionate contributors and readers from all over the world, who have made the IHR's success possible as a point of reference for national hydrographic services and the international hydrographic and maritime communities.

Happy anniversary to the IHR and fair winds to the present and future editors!



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