



Commission 4 Hydrography

Conference Report

Commission 4 (C4) continues to play a significant role within FIG and in support of its many activities. Most notably by active participation in ACCO and other administrative, decision making meetings and contributing papers and presentations to the overall conference programme.

This FIG Regional Conference was an important milestone for C4 for a number of reasons, namely:

- It further consolidates our relationship with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO);
- A C4 paper presented in Accra is now FIG Article of the Month, April 2006;
- Agreement on a second C4 WG Publication – Issues in the Administration of marine and Coastal Spaces.

FIG and IHO signed a new MOU two years ago at the FIG WW in Athens. Working closely with IHO, C4 was invited to participate in an IHO Capacity Building Committee seminar in Trieste, Italy in October 2005. The focus of the seminar was the West African Region and followed extensive visits and reports by the IHO East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission, West African Action Team.

Leading on from this the IHO was invited to present a key-note paper in Accra. In Plenary Session 2; Capacity Building in Africa, Capt. Hugo M Gorziglia, (IHB Director) presented a paper on IHO Capacity Building Efforts in the Region. This was further expanded upon in a later session by Capt. Dominique Baggio, France (SHOM) who presented an Assessment and future prospects for hydrography in Western and Central Africa.

Given the unique opportunity that the conference provided, FIG C4 and IHO held a meeting with a representative from the Accra Regional Maritime Academy (RMA). Both FIG and IHO are committed to supporting the RMA in its work and a detailed workplan is being prepared. A joint article highlighting this ongoing work is being compiled for a mainstream hydrographic journal.

Technical session 20: Hydrography included a paper from Nigeria entitled Charting Nigerian waters for safer Navigation. An excellent grass roots paper, easily readable, which highlights the many economic, political and cultural challenges the region faces. This paper was selected as the April'06 FIG Article of the Month and can be found on the FIG website

http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/april_2006/egbuh_april_2006.htm

C4 WG 4.3 (Chair Michael Sutherland) held detailed discussions on a new publication scheduled for completion by the Munich Congress. This is the second publication that C4 will launch at Munich and is part of the overall Commission workplan. This is a joint publication with Commission 7 entitled "Issues in the Administration of marine and Coastal Spaces". It will include contributions from regions around the world

Conference proceedings available at <http://www.fig.net/accra/>

including Africa. Note that Comm 4 held a joint session with Comm 8 in Accra on Marine and Coastal Management which included 6 papers.

In summary, this was a successful conference for C4 and we are now looking forward to the Copenhagen ACCO meeting in May and the Munich Congress in October 2006.

Adam Greenland

Chairman

FIG Commission 4 'Hydrography'

<http://www.fig.net/commission4/index.htm>

Conference Pictures



Opening Ceremony



Capt. Hugo Gorziglia & Adam Greenland



Capt. Hugo Gorziglia



TS16 Marine & Coastal



TS20 Hydrography