



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Commission 4 Official Meeting

FIG Working Week, Athens 2004

Date: May 25, 2004

Time: 09:05 am

**Room 250 at the Hotel
Intercontinental, Athens**

Topic: Meeting to discuss 2002-2006 workplan and to receive reports from the working groups.

Chairperson: A. Greenland, MRICS, Port of London Authority, UK.

Minutes: A. Leyzack, Canadian Institute of Geomatics, Canadian Hydrographic Service, Canada.

Attendees: Ruth Adams, Co-chair Working Group 4.2, MRICS, UK Hydrographic Office.

Svante Astermo, Chair of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board on the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers

Teo Chee Hai- Member of Working Group 4.3, Member of the Land Surveyors Board, Peninsular Malaysia.

Wilfried Ellmer- German Hydrographic Society, Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie, Germany.

Dimitrios Evagelidis- Hydrographer of Greece

Alexandros Maratos- President IHB, Monaco.

Jerry Mills- Secretary of The Hydrographic Society of America, NOAA, USA.

David Neale- Member of Working Group 4.3, University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago.

Steve Shipman- IHB, Monaco.

Michael Sutherland- Chair Working Group 4.3, University of New Brunswick, Canada.

Regrets: Adam Kerr- Chair Working Group 4.1

Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany- Chair Working Group 4.2

1-2. Welcome and Introduction

Adam welcomed everyone and introduced the president of the IHB, Mr. Alexandros Maratos. Adam then asked the attendees to identify themselves.

3. House Keeping

Discussion:

- Hydro Workshop to take place in 3 Sessions: WSH1- Hydrography and Charting, WSH2- Marine Cadastre and Coastal Zone Management and WSH3- Vertical Reference Frame and Marine Construction/Dredging
- Signing of the new IHO/FIG MOU to take place in the Theta-Sigma room following the workshop session on Hydrography and Charting at 12:30pm.
- Commission 4 & 5 Dinner at "The Fisherman" restaurant, 8:30pm in the Plaka.
- Technical Tour aboard the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service, V/L HS-OS Nautilus will depart from Piraeas Harbour, 9:00am on 26 May.



4-6. Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes

- The proposed agenda was adopted.
- Adam called attention to the minutes of the previous meeting held in Paris (April 2003) which are posted on the Commission 4 website.

7-7.1. Workplan 2002-2006 and Oral Reports from the Work groups

Adam called attention to the workplan which is posted on the Commission 4 website and gave an overview of progress and projections to date. He then asked for brief oral reports from the work groups:

- **WG 4.1 Strategic Partnerships** has met with limited success in attracting national hydrographic associations to join FIG, however the work group was instrumental in drafting a new MoU with the IHO. The Chair, Mr. Adam Kerr is presently in Ottawa for the CHC and will hold a Commission 4 information session there.
- **WG 4.2 Vertical Reference Surface for Hydrography (VRSH)**: On behalf of the Chair, Ruth Adams reported that a number of papers have been published to date and the work group has set a goal towards producing a working paper which will clearly identify the need for a VRSH along with guidelines for transformations to and from other datums. Ruth will present the next version of the paper with input from Commission 5. In general the issue has become a hot topic within the hydrographic community.
- **WG 4.3 Coastal Zone Management, Marine Cadastre and Ocean Governance** last met in Paris in 2003. Michael Sutherland stated the focus on CZM is becoming worldwide, most notably in Australia, Asia and North America. Three papers have been published in Hydro International, Geomatics World and the Hydrographic Society Journal. An international meeting was organized last September by the WG at the University of New Brunswick, the results of which were presented at Geomatics 2003 held in Calgary. The Chair has been able to leverage research performed at UNB to further the work of WG 4.3. Earlier in the month, the Chair participated at a workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia organized by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). Of particular interest to FIG, especially Comm 4 and 7, is the resolution adopted by the workshop attendees regarding the acceptance of collaboration between FIG (Commission 4.3, i.e. Comm 4 & 7) and the PCGIAP on issues relating to the management of the marine environment. **NOTE** that Commission 4 has taken the lead role in this WG. Details of the meeting have been documented in a report, which has been posted to the Commission 4 website.
- **WG 4.4** Adam identified that **Education and CPD** can be facilitated through the Commission by attending a conference to provide CPD to students or local hydrographers. This approach was suggested at the Regional Conference in Marrakech and Adam would like to deliver at the 2005 Regional Conference in Latin America – venue TBC. The Commission's activities and papers published to date have been captured on a CD which could serve as reference material for educational purposes.

Adam thanked the Chairs for their reports and reminded everyone that the role of the Commission is to help facilitate, encourage and support the WGs.



7.2. Co-operation with Sister Organisations

- Adam called attention to the soon-to-be-signed FIG/IHO MoU, which was prepared with the intention of fostering future co-operation between these organisations.
- Adam thanked the outgoing chair of the IHO/FIG/ICA International Advisory Board, Svante Astermo for his past efforts. Svante suggested that the Commission co-operate in future with the ICA (International Cartographic Association) on matters relating to marine cartography.
- Adam identified that the Commission has been maintaining contact with The Hydrographic Society (THS) as well as a number of national hydrographic societies namely the Hydrographic Society of America (THSoA), The Canadian Hydrographic Association (CHA), Benelux, Australasian, Russian and UK societies. It is hoped that these organisations might consider membership of FIG either individually or collectively through agreement with the soon to be formed International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS).

8. Commission 4 Annual CD

The Commission has mailed copies of its first annual CD to the USA, Canadian, Benelux, Australian, UK and Russian hydrographic societies. The CD is composed of information pulled from the website and provides a tangible means of raising the commission's profile and informing the wider international hydrographic community of the work of Comm 4 in FIG.

Svante asked if it was sent to all Comm 4 delegates, which the Chair confirmed.

9. Future Meetings/Events

2004

- Visit to IHB, Monaco
- 3rd FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta, October 3-7. Call for papers is out.
- Hydro2004, Galway, Ireland, 2-4 November

2005

- 3rd Extraordinary I.H. Conference, Monaco, 11-15 April
- FIG Working Week, Cairo, 16-21 April
- 4th FIG Regional Conference, Latin American, September, location TBA. Commission 4 has tentative plans to organise an educational seminar/workshop at this event – for both students and local surveyors. Possibly 1-2 days in duration in co-operation with a university. David Neale expressed an interest in hosting the event at the University of West Indies.
- US Hydro 2005, San Diego, California, 29-31 March

2006

- FIG Congress, Munich. Adam stated that this was a flagship event and that a Comm 4 technical tour would be organised with the LOC. Wilfried stated that it would be impractical to access a hydrographic vessel but that the shipping administration might be able to provide access to a vessel on the Danube.



10. ACCO Meeting and General Assembly

ACCO

- Adam described the role/relationship of the Commission Chairs with FIG Council through the structure of ACCO.
- Adam noted that the Good Practice Guide is presently taking shape via the **Surveyors Reference Library (SRL)** and that there has been discussion at ACCO as to how/what papers should be accepted for inclusion. After some debate, the decision was to accept all papers with recommendations attached. The SRL is up and running but exists in a basic database form. Jerry expressed concern about copyright issues. Andrew suggested that the speaker/presenter could sign off to permit FIG publication of their work. Adam noted that the concept is driven mostly by council. It was suggested that the hydrographic application could be to direct users to the source of publications and not necessarily house those papers.

General Assembly

- Adam stated that two new Vice Presidents had been elected - Ken Allred (Canada) and Stig Enemark (Denmark) - according to a new model which seeks regional representation through a democratic process.

11. Standards Network

Andrew read from his report to the Standards Network noting that in the spirit of the FIG/IHO MoU he has been co-operating with Monaco to identify ISO standards of relevance to hydrographers. Wilfried noted that the German Institute of Standards is revising the hydrographic standards for terminology and Inland Surveys and that the Commission could contact him for more information in this regard.

12-12.1. Commission 4 Activities To Date, Forecast and Succession Plan 2006-2010

Activities and Forecast

- Adam noted that prior to 2002 there was little activity but since then the objective has been to raise the profile of the Commission. Adam identified the FIG/IHO MoU, Commission 4 CD, various articles written in Hydro International and Geomatics World as well as the Commission 4 web site as being critical in achieving this.
- In the years 2004 to 2006 the Commission would have to keep the momentum going. Adam recognised the member contributions thus far noting that such efforts take place largely in our spare time. Adam invited discussion on how best the Commission may position itself for the future in setting worthwhile and realistic objectives and goals. This discussion is ongoing.

Succession Plan 2006-2010

- A successor to the chair is required and ideally that individual should have financial backing from his or her national association and/or employer. Svante stated that the profile of C4 has been raised since Adam has taken over and that it would be difficult to find a chair as enthusiastic. Jerry asked if Adam had any desire to continue for one more term. Adam cited his accumulative experience of 10 years with FIG and that he believed it would be good to have a fresh face take charge of the Commission. Teo approved of the present system which provides for an overlap period with the incoming chair. Teo also notes the apparent shift in interest (in Commissions 6,7 and 8) to the management side of surveying.



12.2 Encourage Membership in FIG

Adam referred to his recent article in Hydro International entitled “A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand” suggesting that it was in the best interest of all national Hydrographic Societies to work together. Jerry Mills commented that he frustrated with the IFHS as it was in his opinion that they have not made much progress. The THSoA have discussed the use of Commission 4 as an international point of contact. Andrew noted that the CHA have been entertaining membership in both the IFHS and FIG but expressed some concern over Hydro International’s move to solicit subscriptions and news from national Hydrographic societies. Andrew felt that this move would serve to undermine the efforts of the IFHS and the Hydrographic Journal as a point of international contact.

With respect to collaboration with FIG, Michael Sutherland reiterated WG 4.3 involvement in the UN resolution for PCGIP to collaborate with FIG on issues of marine “space” and that the next meeting of the PCGIP executive board will have to confirm that resolution. Michael stressed that Commission 4 should effectively raise a flag and provide feedback on C4 potential role in the resolution in regards to a point of contact in the collaboration.

13. AOB

Michael announced that Commission 9 has sought collaboration with WG 4.3 on issues relating to valuation of rights and interests over water areas. For example in the case of mooring areas. Teo noted that this could become a potential joint WG with Commission 9 and that he would be willing to assist. He asked that Michael forward his contact with C9.

Action items:	Deadline:
Michael to contact Teo for further discussion.	As soon as convenient

14. Next Commission Meeting(s)

- Hydro2004, Galway, Ireland, 2-4 November, 2004
<http://www.hydrographicsociety.org/hydro4/>
- FIG WW, Cairo, Egypt 16-21 April, 2005
<http://www.fig.net/cairo/>