

## *Launching of the South China Sea ENC*

The Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) had kindly hosted the 3rd Coordination Meeting in Daejeon on 19 Feb 2005 for the South China Sea ENC Taskgroup (SET) to discuss the final details of the South China Sea (SCS) ENCs



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All EAHC Member States (MSs) attended this very fruitful meeting and technical issues such as updating and distribution mechanism were discussed and agreed upon. The SET also finalized the report for submission to the EAHC Extraordinary Conference, detailing the work of the Taskgroup together with recommendations for the launching of the SCS ENCs.

The EAHC held its Extraordinary Conference on 22 - 24 February 2005 in Seoul and the SET Report was discussed in depth. The EAHC agreed to officially launch the SCS ENCs on 31 March 2005 with the following conditions :-

- a. The SCS ENCs would be made available to users free of charge for navigation and research purpose. For other uses, prior consent must be sought from the EAHC.
- b. The copyright of the SCS ENCs rests with the EAHC. Data contributed to produce the SCS ENCs remains the property of the respective MS.
- c. MSs can distribute the SCS ENCs. Any Third Party wishing to distribute the SCS ENCs should seek consent from the Chairman of EAHC (Korea).

To facilitate the release and distribution of the SCS ENCs, the EAHC approved the setting up of the website [www.scsenc.org.hk](http://www.scsenc.org.hk) for users to download the ENCs. The EAHC also assigned SET Leader (China) to assume the role as the interim website Administrator. The Administrator would be responsible to maintain the SCS ENCs which included the collation of Notices-To-Mariners (NTMs) from EAHC MSs. The Administrator would then post regular ENC updates on the website for users to download.

To publicize this successful joint project, a presentation was made at the International ENC Seminar held on 21 Feb 2005 in Seoul and reported at the 9th WEND Committee meeting held from 7 - 8 April 2005 in Monaco. An information paper was also submitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) on the official release of the ENCs.