

East Asia Hydrographic Commission Coordinating Meeting on Capacity Building Committee & South China Sea Working Group

Singapore, 10 - 11 January 2007



Standing from the left:

Mr Lim Wee Kiat (Singapore), Lt Matukorn Limsakul (Thailand), Mr Kim Junghyun (South Korea), Cdr Budi Utomo (Indonesia), Mr Lee Shiu-fung (China), Mr Mo Jianshun (China), Mr Ng Kwok Chu (China), Mr Jamie Chen (Singapore), Ms Jenny Goh (Singapore), Mr Thai Low Ying-Huang (Singapore)

Seated from the left:

Captain Sugito (Indonesia), Mr Lee Jae Sub (South Korea), Capt Puvadol Swangsang (Vice-Chairman, Thailand), Mr Parry Oei (Chairman, Singapore), Mr Wang Rui (China), Mr Rosalino Delos Reyes (Philippines), Mr Takeshi Kishida (Japan)

Focus Of The EAHC

At the 9th East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Conference held in Jeju, Korea from 19 to 22 September 2006, the Commission agreed to focus on 3 areas for the next 3 years. These areas are Capacity Building, further enhancing navigational safety in the region, and building trust and cooperation among Member States (MS).

These areas of focus were crystallised into 2 immediate projects, namely :

- a. Capacity Building amongst EAHC Member States
- b. Assessment of critical shoals and wrecks along the main shipping routes in the South China Sea (SCS)

Following the 9th Conference, a Coordinating meeting for the EAHC Capacity Building Committee (CBC) and SCS Working Group (WG) was held in Singapore from 10 to 11 January 2007. Representatives from China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore attended the meeting.

Capacity Building

The objective of the EAHC CBC was to jointly identify and assess MS's capacity building needs and to harmonise our capacity building efforts with those of the International Hydrographic Organisation Capacity Building Committee. The meeting also jointly identified the short and long-term training requirements for each Member State and prioritised the areas of training needs, in particular the processed for carrying out quality assurance for ENC production and multibeam sonar survey.

Enhancing Navigational Safety

The South China Sea (SCS) Working Group (WG) jointly identified the main shipping routes in the SCS and developed preliminary criteria for identifying critical shoal and wrecks along these routes. The work of this desk top study would be led by China and coordinated by Singapore. The SCS WG would submit a report of their assessment to the EAHC for consideration and approval by January 2008.

Next EAHC Coordinating Meeting

From this fruitful meeting, MS supported the idea to hold regular EAHC Coordinating Meetings on an annual basis. This would allow MS to jointly assess, coordinate and jointly manage resources and monitor the progress the various EAHC projects. Thailand has agreed to consider hosting the next Coordinating Meeting in January 2008.

Reported by Singapore