

2nd COORDINATING MEETING OF THE EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION
Chiangmai, Thailand, 23-25 January 2008



The 2nd Coordinating Meeting of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) was held in Chiangmai, Thailand between 23 and 25 January 2008. The meeting was attended by all 9 regional Member State representatives, namely China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, The Republic of Korea, The Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Captain Robert Ward from the International Hydrographic Bureau also attended the meeting. The Chairman of the EAHC, Mr Parry Oei (Singapore) presided the meeting.

The purpose of this annual meeting was to provide direction and guidance to the EAHC Working / Task Groups and Committees; collectively address IHO or IMO related issues affecting the safety of navigation in the region; kick start new projects for example, the EAHC Capacity building Committee meeting; monitor the progress of projects and to assign resources; and provide an opportunity for member States to raise and highlight new concerns for EAHC's consideration. Capt Ward also provided a briefing on the status of global ENC coverage and on various measures for consideration by the EAHC members.

Two key outcomes of the meeting were :

- a) To prioritise and channel the region's resources to work on ENC coverage, availability and consistency. This included work carried out by the EAHC ENC Task Group on the harmonisation of ENCs.
- b) To realign this region's training focus towards "training the trainer" and to harvest the wealth of experienced experts from within the region as lecturers. This would help accelerate the EAHC efforts in its Capacity Building program. The inaugural training courses on :
 - i) Quality Assurance (QA) of Multibeam Surveying and Data Processing would be held in Singapore from 16 – 19 June 2008
 - ii) and QA of ENCs would be held in Thailand (Tentative).

The above courses would also support the International Hydrographic Organisation's 3rd World Hydrography Day's theme of Capacity Building.

The 3rd EAHC Coordinating Meeting is planned to take place in late January 2009.

Submitted by : Chair(EAHC), Singapore.