

10TH EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE

Singapore, 15TH to 17TH October 2009



Introduction

The 10th East Asia Hydrographic Commission Conference was held in Singapore from 15th to 17th October 2009. Dr Parry Oei the Chair of EAHC, welcomed all delegates from China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Singapore, as well as Observers from Brunei Darussalam, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam, The South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and the International Hydrographic Bureau.

EAHC Activities 2006-2009

Chairman opened the meeting by presenting the Commission's activities from 2006-2009 which focussed on the 3 areas of :

- Capacity Building.
- Enhancing navigational safety through regional projects.
- Building trust and cooperation amongst Member States.

These included annual Coordinating Meetings, ENC TaskGroup meetings, release of the 2nd Edition of the South China Sea ENC's and the conduct of hydrographic training courses. These meetings were useful in view of the need to address ENC development as a region and rapidly emerging hydrographic technologies. Technical visits were also made to Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam in June 2009 and September 2009 respectively to explore

areas of capacity building and to encourage them to join the International Hydrographic Organisation and the EAHC.

Main Outcomes

Some of the major outcomes from the 10th EAHC Conference were:

- Commitment on the ongoing updating of the South China Sea.
- Updating of the EAHC ENC Catalogue.
- Proposed streamlining of the EAHC Website.
- Commitment to harmonise the region's ENCs.
- Discussion on the merits of introducing High Density ENCs.
- Development of a regional Capacity Building Training Road Map.

New Chair and Vice-Chair of the EAHC

At the end of the Conference Singapore handed the Chairmanship to Thailand and Philippines was unanimously nominated as the Vice-Chair of the EAHC. The new EAHC Chairman, VAdm Nakorn Tanuwong proposed that the next EAHC Conference would be held in September 2012, Thailand.

Reported by: Singapore.