

**VISIT TO KOREA HYDROGRAPHIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC AGENCY AND 13<sup>TH</sup> COORDINATION MEETING OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE IHO-ROK PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**  
**Republic of Korea, 6 to 9 February**

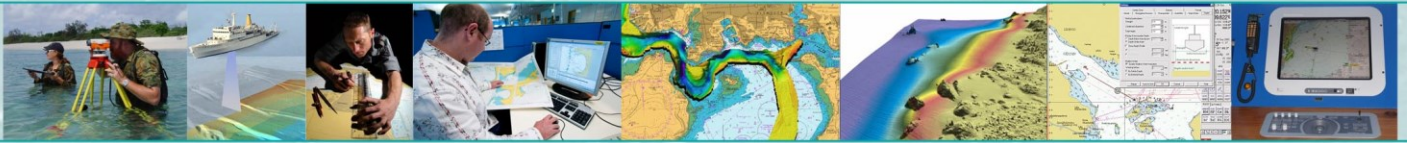
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 3.3.6	Organize, prepare and report on meetings with other organizations, funding agencies, private sector and academia, including:the Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IAEA/IALA/FIG/IMPA Capacity Building Coordination meeting

The 13<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of Programme Management Board (PMB13) for the IHO-Republic of Korea (ROK) Programme of Technical Cooperation was held in person, after three years of video conference due to the pandemic, at the Asti Hotel, Busan, Republic of Korea from 7 to 9 February 2023 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the ROK and the IHO on Support for the IHO Capacity Building Programme.

The PMB13 was preceded by the High Level Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Seoul, ROK on 6 February 2023. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi SINAPI and the MOFA by Director General for International Legal Affairs, Mr RHEE Zha Hyoung. Discussions focused on IHO Capacity Building, the development of the Universal Hydrographic Data Model S-100 and those sectors where the ROK is actively participating, providing various professional opportunities and online systems. MOFA reaffirmed continuing support for the benefit of the international hydrographic community.



*Meeting with the Director General for International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea - Mr RHEE Zha Hyoung*



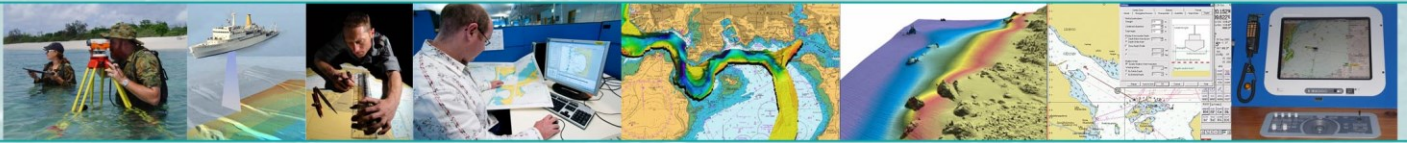
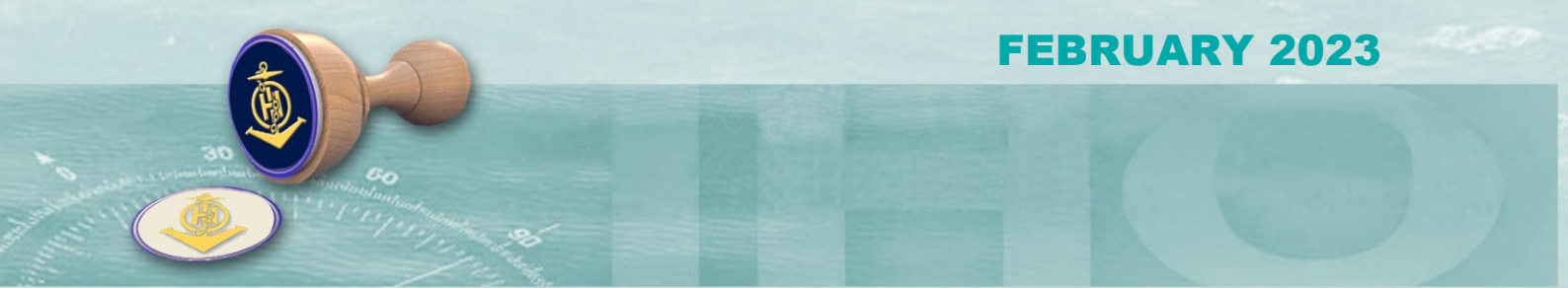
The PMB13 examined 13 applications for the Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) recognized by the IBSC (FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers). The Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the ROK, the IHO Secretariat, the USM and the Chair of Capacity Building Sub-Committee as an observer, selected a candidate from Romania and Türkiye each to enrol in the 2023-2024 session.

Since 2013, the number of graduated students from the Category "A" Programme totals 21, including those from the 2022-2023 academic year, from 13 IHO Member States (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Estonia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Thailand and Tunisia). In order to share the active contributions of alumni to the national, regional and international hydrographic communities after graduation and to celebrate the successful 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme, it was decided to organize an Alumni Workshop from 12 to 14 September 2023 in Busan, ROK.



***IHO Director SINAPI (PMB13 chair), representatives from the ROK, the IHO Secretariat, the USM and the Chair of Capacity Building Sub-Committee***

PMB13 also approved the budget allocation for the programmes in 2023 including the Category "B" Nautical Cartography Programme for 9 students to attend the course, to be held at the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) in Busan, ROK from 19 June to 3 November 2023. In order to reduce the challenges associated with the tight timeline for the entire process to be completed in a year, it was decided that for future Category "B" Programmes the IHO Circular Letter calling for candidates should be initiated before the PMB meeting. This is however dependent on the confirmation from the ROK to the IHO Secretariat of the availability of the relevant funds.



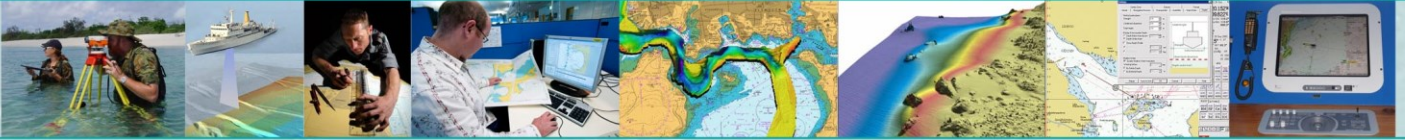
The PMB13 was associated with the visit to KHOA on 8 February 2023, which provided PMB13 participants with a better understanding of the current status of hydrography and oceanography in the Republic of Korea such as the S-100 Testbed in connection with the vessel simulator, Oceanographic observation and forecast system and Ocean Satellite Center. In particular, the Ocean Broadcast Studio showed the potentiality of extended application of hydrography and oceanography in our daily life.



*Visit to Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency and meeting with Director General*

During the visit, the PMB13 delegates were welcomed by the Director General LEE Cheoljo of KHOA. Both the IHO Secretariat and the ROK highlighted that close mutual cooperation is essential, not only for the development of hydrographic capabilities in Member States, but also for the marine environment and active participation in the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

After in-depth discussions between the IHO Secretariat and the ROK during the PMB13 meeting on the recently installed IHO e-Learning Center, the PMB13 reached a substantial compromise just before the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of IHO e-Learning Project Team (ELPT9) on 9 February 2023. The ROK informed the IHO Secretariat and the ELPT about the decision to support (with human resources and financially) the IHO e-learning Center, the establishment of which is completed and the guidelines will be presented for approval at the next CBSC and IRCC meetings to be held in June 2023. Immediately after the meetings, the IHO Secretariat will announce by means of an IHO CL that the IHO e-learning Center is fully operational and encourage Member States to provide further training materials to the Center. The outcome of the preparatory meeting was subsequently reported to the ELPT9 and welcomed by the PT Chair and all the participants.



*Participation in the 9th meeting of IHO e-Learning Project Team*

The next PMB Meeting (PMB14) will be held from 16 to 19 January 2024 at USM, USA having Monaco as backup venue.