



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
and
THE INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION (ICA)

1. Parties

This document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

2. Background

The IHO and ICA each recognizes that the other is an international organization with many complementary activities serving similar professional constituencies.

IHO is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 80 Member States represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardization of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, IHO has also encouraged the establishment of several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics.

ICA is the world authoritative body for cartography and Geographic Information (GI) science. The ICA works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to contribute to the understanding and solution of worldwide problems through the use of cartography and GI Science in decision-making processes; to foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping; to provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography and GI Science; to facilitate the transfer of new cartographic and GI technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations; to carry out or to promote multi-national cartographic and GI Science research in order to solve scientific and applied problems; to enhance cartographic and GI Science education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences; and to promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography and GI Science.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organizations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:

1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organizations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest.
2. Each organization should inform the other of all Commissions, Working Groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate.
3. Each organization should inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Both organizations should identify opportunities to organize specialized seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship.
5. Both organizations confirm their commitment in the work of the joint FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, which will be implemented under the rules adopted for this Board.
6. Each organization should invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective General Assemblies/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence. This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or ICA proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the consent of both organizations. This Memorandum of Understanding can be terminated at any time for any reason by one party writing to the other party, signifying its intention to withdraw from the terms of the MOU.

Date: 23 April 2012

On behalf of IHO

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Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS

President,

International Hydrographic Bureau

On behalf of ICA

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Professor Georg GARTNER

President,

International Cartographic Association