

12th CHRIS MEETING
Valparaiso, Chile, 23-25 October 2000

GEOMATICA 2000, LA HABANA, CUBA, 22-27 MAY 2000
(Michel Huet, IHB)

GEOCUBA Entrepise Group, the Cuban national centre for geographic information (which includes the Cuban Hydrographic Office), organised the GEOMATICA 2000 Conference with support from the International Cartographic Association and the IHB. GEOMATICA 2000, an element of a broader international convention called INFORMATICA 2000, was a significant Conference combining many disciplines engaged in the collection, standardisation, management and dissemination of geographical data in various forms. The theme of the Conference: "**For a Global Integration of Data and Geospatial Services**" reflected the current trend towards integration, interoperability and standardisation of geospatial data, as a basis for a more globalised market. The IHB was represented by Rear Admiral Neil GUY and Ing en chef Michel HUET, who presented papers and acted as Chairmen of Sessions in the GEOMATICA 2000 programme. Dr Tatiana DELGADO FERNÁNDEZ, of GEOCUBA, co-ordinated the organisation of the Conference.

After an impressive Opening Ceremony for INFORMATICA 2000, in the presence of the Minister of Informatics and Communications of Cuba, Hon. Ignacio GONZÁLEZ PLANAS, GEOMATICA 2000's papers on digital standards, integration of spatial data, geographic information systems, cartography, photogrammetry, and remote sensing, were presented and discussed. The standard of the papers was very high and showed advance thinking on many of the aspects relevant to Hydrographic Offices in 2000. Presentations were made in English or Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation. The staff of GEOCUBA presented many of the papers. The following presentations, of interest to HOs, were noted:

- Challenges and Opportunities of Cartography in the Digital Era, by Ferjan ORMELING, U. of Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- Spatial Data Standards: an Inventory for Hydro-Oceanographic Needs, by Michel HUET, IHB.
- Open Geospatial Datastore Interface (OGDI): a Geospatial Data Infrastructure Solution, by Gilles CLÉMENT, Global Geomatics Inc., Canada.
- Cartographer's Responsibility. Some Comments on the Digital Map Production and the Quality Aspects of the Cartographic Data, by Erkki-Sakari HARJU, Goedata Oy, Finland.
- Open GIS, by María Elena DÍAZ AGUIRRE, GEOCUBA.
- Cartographic Representations in a GIS Environment, by Koert SIJMONS, ITC, The Netherlands.
- World-Wide Database for Electronic Navigational Charts: Existing Structures and Strategy for the Future, by Neil GUY, IHB.
- Electronic Navigational Charts: Current Status of World-Wide Production and Operations, by Michel HUET, IHB.
- Current Status of the ECDIS Type Approval, by Lee ALEXANDER, U. of New-Hampshire, USA (presented by Michel HUET).
- Experiencias de la Producción en Cuba de las Cartas Náuticas Electrónicas en Formato Raster, by Marivel Pérez Pérez, GEOCUBA.
- Standardisation of Geographical Names at Sea: the Role of the International Hydrographic Organisation, by Michel HUET, IHB.
- Perspectivas de la Percepción Remota y los Sistemas de Información Espacial en Latinoamérica, by Gustavo RUIZ, SELPER, Venezuela.
- Infraestructura Cubana de Datos Geoespaciales: una Necesidad Nacional para la Integración y Diseminación de Datos Geoespaciales, by Tatiana DELGADO FERNÁNDEZ, GEOCUBA.
- Experiencia de México en el Establecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Información Geográfica, by Jorge PADILLA NORIEGA, INEGI, Mexico.

- Marine GIS - Few Issues, by Iyyanki V MURALI KRISHNA, JNTU, India.

GEOCUBA should be commended for the excellent organisation of the Conference and the high standard of the presentations. Requests for copies of the above papers should be addressed to (geomatica2000@colombus.cu). The next INFORMATICA Conference will again take place in Havana, on 18-23 February 2002, with a GEOMATICA Programme included.
