

EAST ASIA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

M E S S A G E

I am happy to extend my warm greetings to the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) NEWSLETTER on its inaugural issue, and to the Hydrographic Office of Japan for paving the way for this publication.

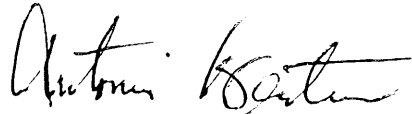
It may be recalled that the formation of the EAHC resulted from the adoption by the 9th International Hydrographic Commission in Monaco in 1967 of a resolution concerning the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions. Pursuant to this resolution, the hydrographers of the region banded together to form this Commission to ensure the coordination of activities in the field of hydrography and nautical charting, to facilitate the mutual exchange of information, and to encourage mutual assistance for the development of hydrographic techniques and finally, to work out regional cooperation programmes in the fields of hydrography and descriptive oceanography.

It may be emphasized that the Commission is concerned solely with matters of purely technical nature pertaining to this highly scientific field, and to that end, it operates closely within the framework of the International Hydrographic Organization. While its present membership includes only the Hydrographers of Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines and Thailand, it is hoped that the other hydrographic offices in the East and Southeast Asian region will eventually become members. This should ensure the attainment of the objectives of the Commission and a wider participation in the projects that may be launched in the future.

Due to the untiring efforts of the first Chairman of the Commission, the Chief Hydrographer of Japan, and his successor, the Chief Hydrographer of Korea, the Commission, while still young in concept, can now count several distinct accomplishments. Among these may readily be mentioned the establishment of the Worldwide Navigational Warning System in this area, and the assumption of responsibility for the upkeep of the General Bathymetric Charts of the Oceans (GEBCO) in this part of the world. The Commission has also been instrumental in the encouragement of the conduct of oceanographic training courses by member countries for the benefit of hydrographers in neighboring states. All these have contributed to strengthening the role of the Commission.

It is therefore both timely and relevant that a regional publication be maintained and circulated primarily for the benefit of the Commission Members. It is our hope that this NEWSLETTER shall promote closer understanding and cooperation among us in our common objective of enhancing the safety of maritime navigation in East Asian waters.

Again, to the EAHC NEWSLETTER and its publication Staff, my warmest felicitations and wishes for success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio P. Ventura', with a stylized, flowing script.

*ANTONIO P. VENTURA, Commodore, BCGS
Director, Philippine Coast and Geodetic Survey
Chairman*