

FOUR NATION JOINT SURVEY TO START IN THE MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS

A 4-nation joint hydrographic survey is expected to start soon in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore as a project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

A JICA preparatory study team composed of 6 members from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hydrographic Department of Japan, JICA and Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA), headed by Dr. Yasuhiro Ganeko, Director of Planning Division, JHD, was dispatched to the three littoral countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, from 14 May, and a four nation joint meeting was held in Seremban, Malaysia, on 27-28 May 1996 to finalize an agreement called "Scope of Work (S/W) for the Four Nation Joint Re-survey of Critical Areas and Investigation of Dangerous/Unconfirmed Shoals and Wrecks in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore", which was agreed and signed by the representatives of the four nations on 28 May 1996.

The survey will be undertaken by JICA jointly with the three littoral countries. The field work will start expectedly in October 1996 and is scheduled to be completed within 21 months with the "smooth sheets, or fair charts" to be produced

jointly as the final results of the project. Japan, through JICA, will be responsible for dispatching a field survey team, providing necessary survey equipment and financial support, while each of the littoral countries for providing a survey vessel, field supervisors, field survey data processing facilities, and their necessary expenses, respectively. The proposed survey areas in the straits will be divided into 6 groups, Group Areas 1 to 6, according to the responsibility of each littoral country. The project will cover the following items to be carried out:

- Horizontal control survey
- Tidal observation
- Search and sounding of shoals and wrecks by using four-beam echo sounders and side scan sonars
- Ships' position fixing by DGPS
- Preliminary data processing in the field with new findings to be promulgated as navigational warnings and/or NiM, as well as final data processing in Japan
- Preparation of smooth sheets on 1:20,000
- Preparation of ENC database



Signing an Agreement called Scope of Work (S/W) by
Representatives of the Governments of Four Nations concerned

From left Capt. Syahwin Hamid, Director of Navigation, Directorate General of Sea Communication, Ministry of Communications, Indonesia; Mdm. O. C. Phang, Undersecretary, Maritime Division, Ministry of Transport, Malaysia; Capt. Wilson Chua, Hydrographer, Maritime and Port Authority, Singapore; Dr. Yasuhiro Ganeko, Director, Planning Division, JHD, Leader, Preparatory Study Team, Japan International Cooperation Agency.