

2) Notes with interest the project undertaken by the United States Government to create a Global High Resolution Geoid and welcomes the intention to give full circulation of the results to all interested;

3) Noting that the International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) is a system of coordinates maintained by the International Earth Rotation Service and approved for use by the International Association of Geodesy, recommends that coordinates relating to maritime baselines, boundaries and other positional features, should be submitted by coastal states to the relevant United Nations offices in terms of this system and its associated international terrestrial reference frames, while accepting that World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) approximates to ITRS and is a practical geodetic datum suitable for

hydrographers, geophysicists, and navigators;

4) Recognising that the equipotential surface LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide) represents an important lowest normal tidal level for hydrographers and marine navigators, recommends that in addition to the Geoid geodesists should pay attention to the precise computation of LAT; and

5) Urges the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) to give sympathetic consideration to any request from the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), to expand the joint IAG / IHO Advisory Board on Technical and Geodetic Aspects of the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) by inviting participants from other international scientific organisations (such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-IOC).

3RD MEETING OF ABLOS HELD IN NEW ZEALAND



Participants of the Meeting

From left

Dr. Tadahiko Katsura, Japan
 Prof. Peter Vanicek, Canada
 Cdre. Neil Guy, South Africa
 Mr. Jack Weighman, U.K.
 Cdr. Peter Usher, New Zealand
 Mr. Adam Kerr, IHB
 Mr. Iain Lamont, New Zealand
 Lt./ Cdr. Chris Carleton, U.K.
 Prof. Chris Risoz, Australia
 Mr. Bjorn Harsson, Norway

The Third Meeting of Advisory Board of the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) was held in New Zealand on 8 and 9 July 1996, and a visit to Hydrographic Office of Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) was also conducted on 10 July.

The meeting was attended by 8 Full Members of the board, including Dr. Tadahiko Katsura, Head, Continental Shelf Surveys Office of JHD from the East Asian region, and from the Hydrographic Office of RNZN, Commander P. Usher, Hydrographer, and Mr. I. C. Lamont, Notices to Mariners Officer, a corresponding member of the board.

The subjects reported, considered and discussed on the first day included the following:

- Approval of Minutes of the Second Meeting,
- Geodetic Appendix to TALOS Manual,
- IOC/IHO Book on Continental Shelf,
- Action of press release on ABLOS,
- Report of GALOS Conference at Bali,
- Liaison and future planning with GALOS,
- Liaison with UN, DOALOS (Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea-UN), IOC,
- Report on organization of Eastern Caribbean States Meeting,
- Recommendations on vertical datums of IHO Tidal W/G,
- Contents of the Conference for Boundary Research to be held at Durham University,
- Future work programme.

Main points of the Meeting on the first day were:

1. Geodetic Appendix to TALOS Manual was completed;
2. Progress on development of IOC/IHO Book on Continental Shelf was reported, its progress going smoothly;
3. Outlines of the Second GALOS Meeting held in Bali from 1 to 4 July, prior to ABLOS, was reported;
4. As a result of discussions on coordination between ABLOS and GALOS, it was agreed by the members of the board including Professor P. Vanicek, who serves also the chairman of GALOS, that ABLOS would be reorganized with formal members to be nominated by its higher, parent bodies IHO, IOC, and IAG, while GALOS would also be reorganized as a study group on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to be composed of geodesists of IAG; and

5. Other reports and discussions were also made on various matters, particularly on coordination between the activities of ABLOS and the UN Office of the Law of the Sea, publicity of ABLOS activities, and advice on technical aspects on UNCLOS to coastal nations.

On the second day, an ABLOS Seminar was also held in the same place. Programmes for delimitation of the continental shelf and other maritime boundaries were addressed and reported by Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and United Kingdom, respectively, followed by discussion and exchange of views among participants. A presentation of IHB and the visit to the Hydrographic Office of RNZN were carried down to the next day as time was not enough to cover all the agenda items scheduled.

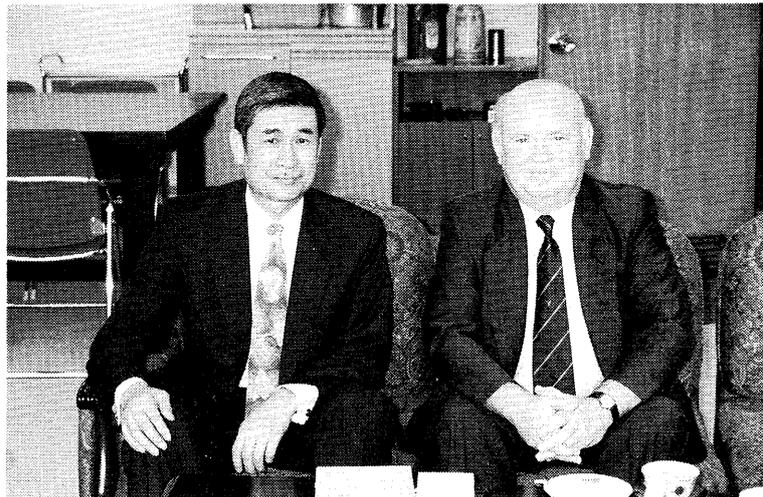
The next meeting of ABLOS will be held at IHB, Monaco in 1997.

FORMER ARGENTINE HYDROGRAPHER CALLS AT JHD

On 27 June 1996 Vice Admiral Don Alfredo Augusto Yung, the former Head of Argentine Naval Hydrographic Service, called on Dr. Shoichi Oshima, Chief Hydrographer of Japan.

It was rather a short visit but they enjoyed reunion and dis-

cussed about various topics of common interest, including some matters on the forthcoming I.H. Conference and the ENC production. Vice Admiral Yung also enjoyed a round in JHD particularly its ENC production process and facilities.



From left
Dr. Oshima
Vice Admiral, Yung

CHINESE STATE OCEANIC ADMINISTRATION TEAM VISITS JHD

A marine management study team of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), People's Republic of China, visited Japan from 24 to 26 June 1996.

The study team composed of 6 leading officials, headed by Mr. Chen Jia Xin, Deputy Director, Department of Personnel, Labour and Education, SOA, called on Dr. Shoichi Oshima,

Chief Hydrographer of Japan, on 24 July to exchange views on various matters on marine activities. They also made an observation tour to the Japan Maritime Safety Agency Research Center situated in Tachikawa a suburb of Tokyo, on 25 as well as ENC Production Unit, Navigational Warning Operation Unit and Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC) of JHD on 26 July.