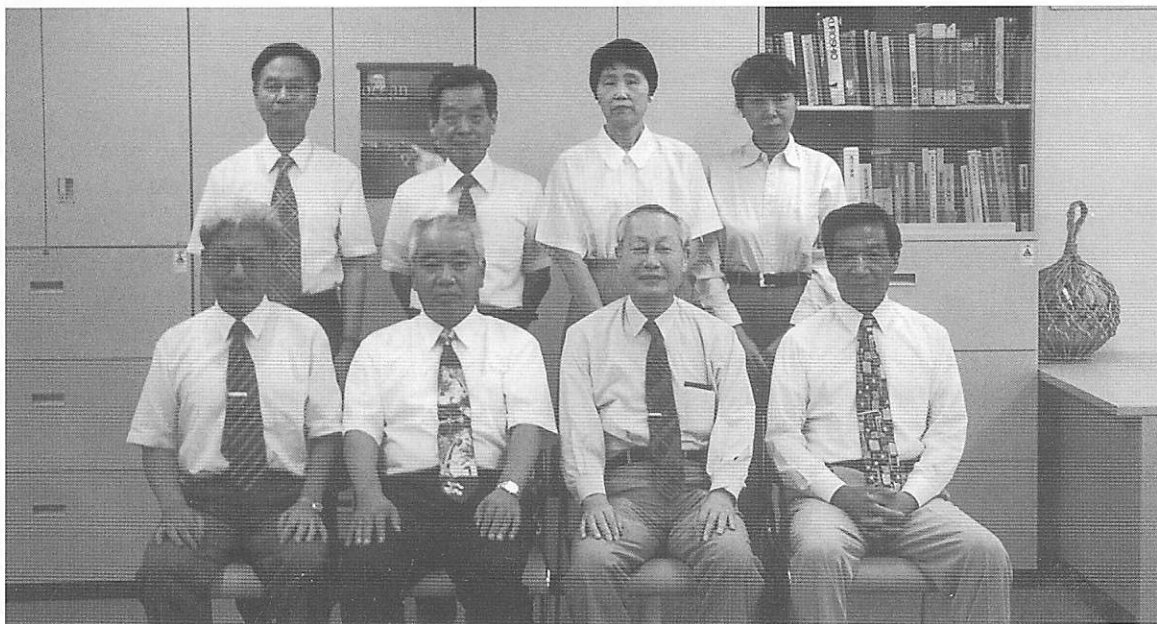


ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE INFORMATION RESEARCH CENTER(MIRC)

Recently, exploitation and utilization of ocean or ocean space become more and more active. In addition, the understandings of the structure and variability of the ocean are urgent for the climate change prediction, as the ocean plays important role in the global climate system of the earth. Thus, the requirement for the oceanic data and information of high reliability and of high quality is increasing rapidly. Also, the enlightening and popularization of the ocean knowledge are essential to keep good oceanic environment and to make sustainable exploitation and utilization of the oceans. Researches of the oceans and relating data management businesses require intimate international cooperation, and we need to activate research activities of the developing countries and to help to train experts of data management..

Under these circumstances, Marine Information Research Center(MIRC) was established in the Japan Hydrographic Association. MIRC will conduct high grade quality control to the oceanic data compiled by Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC), and produce useful data products for users of various fields. Speedy distribution of necessary data set and of data products is also the task of MIRC. MIRC keeps experts and technical staffs and computer and communication facilities to conduct these businesses. Besides, MIRC will work for enlightening and popularization of the ocean knowledge for general publics using its data products. To serve the studies on the global environment and the climate prediction researches, MIRC joins international data exchange systems in order to produce the necessary global data set of high quality.



Staff of the Establishment of MIRC

JICA GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY, 1997

The JICA Group Training Course in Hydrographic Survey (Internationally Accredited Category B Course) for 1997 started at the Hydrographic Department of Japan, Tokyo, on 11 April and will be conducted till November 1997.

Arrangements for conducting the course are administered by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and supported by Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA).

In this training course, 11 participants from 11 countries, who were selected among many applicants, are now participating in the course being conducted at JHD.

The participants are:

Mr. Md. Shamim Firdous, Deputy Assistant Director
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Bangladesh

Mr. Horn Sovanna, General Directorate of Irrigation Meteorology and Hydrology, Cambodia

Mr. Alaa Eldin Abd El Monem Aly Ahmed, Site Manager
Suez Canal Authority, Egypt

Mr. Lui Tawake, Technical Officer 1
Fiji Hydrographic Service, Fiji