

## ***THE FIRSTS MEETING OF THE GEM - HDI EXCHANGE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA, 12 -15 JUNE 1997***

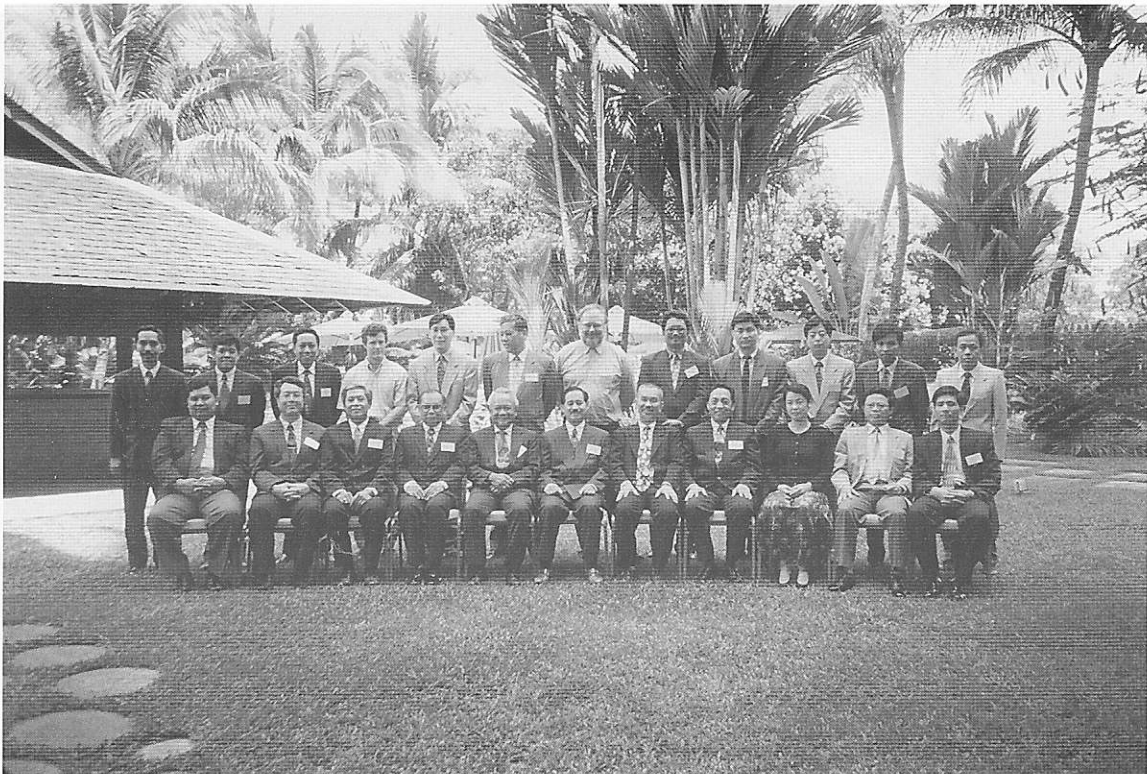
The First Meeting of the Group of Experts on Exchange of Hydrographic Data and Information (GEM-HDI) was held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, June 12-15 1997, took place at Hilton Hotel and attended by China, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia hosted the meeting, In addition, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), University of British Columbia were represented at the meeting as well as Sea Communications of Indonesia (Observer).

The Meeting is a part of the Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea (MPCSCS) which was established in 1989 and annually has conducted the workshop activities 1990. As authorised by the Seventh Workshop on Managing Potential in the South China Sea, this Meeting was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Hydrographic Department, Royal Malaysian Navy, assisted by the South China Sea Informal Working Group at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and supported by CIDA, officially was opened by the Chairman of Organizing Committee, First Admiral Mohd Rasip bin

Hassan.

The following papers were presented or contributed; Status of Hydrography in the South China Sea, Joint Hydrographic Surveys of Malacca and Singapore Straits, the ASEAN-Australia Co-operative Programme on Marine Science, the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific(IBCWP) Project, all prepared by the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Malaysian Navy; Hydrographic Survey and Inland Waterway Sector in Cambodia, by Dr. Phung Katry; The Status of CWB's Marine Meteorology Data Base System in Taiwan, by Dr. Lin Ming Tso; The Importance of Establishing The South China Sea Joint Survey Project, by First Admiral Nicolas P. Ello and A Proposal on Joint Hydrographic Surveys and Charting of the South China Sea, prepared by Commodore Renato B. Feir.

At the end of the meeting has been agreed the result of the meeting, that is, Statement of the First Meeting of the Group of Experts on Hydrographic Data and Information Exchange in the South China Sea.



Participants of the Meeting on DEM-HDI, Kuching, Malaysia