

## **INTERNATIONAL ECDIS CONFERENCE "ECDIS - AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR SAFE NAVIGATION"**

Singapore's first International ECDIS(Electronic Chart Display and Information System) Conference and Exhibition received overwhelming response from the maritime industry. Close to 350 participants from 37 countries including 52 speakers from 17 countries gathered for the three days to promote the use of ECDIS and shared their expertise and experiences on the use of ECDIS for safe navigation. 21 exhibitors also showcased their latest ECDIS and Electronic Navigation Chart products.

Jointly organized by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore(MPA) and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, the Conference was officially opened by Dr. John Chen, Minister of State for Communications and H.E. Mr. Alan Hunt, British High Commissioner on 26 October 1998 at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

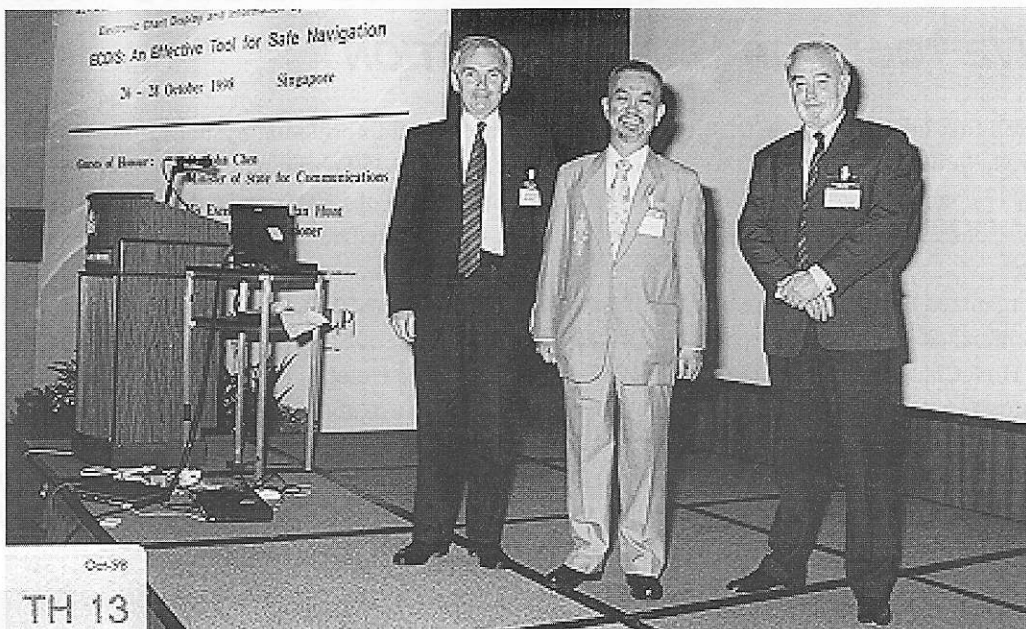
The Conference theme was "ECDIS - An Effective tool for Safe Navigation" and the sessions included "ECDIS - An Efficient Tool For Navigational Safety, Official World Wide Digital Data For Global Shipping, Maritime Digital Chart Data Business, ECDIS For Future Applications, Structured ECDIS Training and Use Of ECDIS For Environmental Monitoring and Protection". The participants felt that the ECDIS Conference was the most comprehensive and informative event held on ECDIS so far.



Conference hall in the Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore

## **THE SECOND MEETING OF THE GEM-HDI**

The Second Meeting of the Group of Experts on Hydrographic Data and Information Exchange in the South China Sea(GEM-HDI-2) was held in Singapore on October 20th 1998, attended by Heads of Hydrographic Office from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore as well as observers from around the South China Sea. In the session had been presented Draft Proposed Agreement of Exchange for Hydrographic Data and Information by Malaysia, Report and Progress of the Second Draft Proposal on the Joint Hydrographic Surveys and Charting of the South China Sea prepared by Philippines and Hydrographic Surveys in the Natuna Area by Indonesia.



From left: Rear Admiral J.P. Clarke, Hydrographer of U.K., Captain W. Chua, Hydrographer of Singapore and Commodore Neil Guy, Director of Directing Committee, IHB in International ECDIS Conference

## ***2ND SHARED MEETING 23RD - 24TH OCTOBER 1998 IN SINGAPORE***

The 2nd SHARED Meeting was held just before the International ECDIS Conference at same venue. Participants at the Meeting included hydrographic officers from Australia, Chile, China, Hong Kong SAR, International Hydrographic Bureau(IHB), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, United Kingdom, and USA.

The meeting discussed the extension of the SHARED programme to other ports by reviewing the coverage and availability of official electronic charts, especially for the main shipping routes and ports. The meeting agreed that three additional shipping routes would be included and they were: Japan - Korea to the Gulf; Japan - Korea to Australia; and, Singapore to Australia via Jakarta, Surabaya, Lombok Strait. This would extend the present SHARED route which covers South Hampton(UK) - Singapore - Hong Kong SAR to include other major ports and shipping routes.

## ***9TH WORKSHOP ON MANAGING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS HELD IN JAKARTA***

The 9th Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 1-3 December 1998.

During Session IV on December 3rd 1998 : Director General of Malaysian Hydrographic Department reported the Second Group of Experts meeting on Hydrographic Data and Information Exchange in the South China Sea held in Singapore, on October 20th 1998 to the Technical Working Group on Safety of Navigation, Shipping and Communication. The meeting were attended by Heads of Hydrographic Office from Indonesia, First Admiral Nicolas P. ELLO as well as participants of Organization Responsible for Hydrography in Non-Member States of IHO from around the South China Sea.