

## *8th East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Conference Held in Shanghai, China*



Participants of 8th EAHC

Pursuant to decision made during the 7th East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Conference at Jakarta, Indonesia in 2000, the China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) hosted the 8th EAHC Conference was held at the Seagull Hotel, Shanghai, People's Republic of China from 11th to 14th November 2003, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Zheng Heping. The Conference was well attended with eight member states from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand. In attendance were observers from the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) of International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, United States and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Mr. Zheng Heping opened the Conference and welcomed the delegates to the first Commission Conference of the new century. He encouraged free and open discussion during this Conference meeting as a venue most appropriate to formulate strategic objectives to address the Region's hydrographic issues. The Heads of delegates from Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand expressed, in their respective speeches, their gratitude to China MSA for hosting the Conference. And the observers from IHB, IHO SPWG, Brunei, D.P.R. of Korea, UK, USA, and Viet Nam also expressed their gratitude to China MSA for the kind invitation to the Conference. The issue of amendments to EAHC Statutes was raised. After deliberation, the Conference adopted the Agenda with the addition of a new item as "Discussions on the amendments to the Statutes of EAHC". The subjects discussed at the Conference were as follows:

\* Report on activities by the Chairman of EAHC, Member States and IHO.

\* Presentation of Technical Papers;

1. China;

- a) The Basic Construction and Main Contents of Digital Port.
- b) Application of Electronic Charts in China MSA.
- c) The Research of Making ENC Using ARCINFO.
- d) Cross-point Difference Map for Marine Survey Quality Assessment.
- e) The Application of Electronic Chart under the Model of Digital Earth.
- f) Progress of Hydrographic Survey Technology in China.
- g) The Application of Digital Tidal Stream Atlas (DTSA) in the Port of Hong Kong.

2. Indonesia;

- a) Balerang Project and the Development of ENC in Indonesia.

3. Japan;

- a) Multibeam Sounding and Airborne Laser Hydrography for Shallow Water Hydrographic Surveys in Japan.
- b) Preparation of Coastal Hazard Information for Tsunami.

4. Republic of Korea;

- a) Proposal for Technical Symposium on ENC Distribution Service.

Among the papers submitted to the Conference, most relate to ENC development, a pressing task for the hydrographic community. It was noted, that more frequent symposiums on such a topic were needed to facilitate worldwide ENC production and update.

\* IHO Issues;

1. Explanation the work and progress of SPWG.

2. Update of IHO Special Publication 55 "the Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Cartography World-Wide".

3. Presentation an introduction of the WEND Task Group efforts to encourage ENC production and distribution.

The Conference concluded with Dr. Kim, Director General of the National Oceanographic Research Institute (Republic of Korea) assuming the Chairmanship, with Singapore elected the Vice-chair. The tentative schedule for the next Conference was set for September 2006 with an extraordinary Conference proposed for January 2005.



From left: Mr. Zhen Hoping "Chairman of the EAHC", Ram. Barber and Vim