

5th Meeting of the IHO SPWG held in Tokyo, Japan

The 5th Meeting of the IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) was held at the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) of Japan Coast Guard (JCG) in Tokyo on March 1-4, 2004, under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. Klepsvik (Norway). All the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions were represented at the meeting, together with the individual countries (Argentina, China, Finland, Germany, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, UK, USA and Japan).



Mr. Fukaya, Commandant of the JCG, welcomed the participants. He referred to the effort made by the JCG since its establishment in 1948, to ensure the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. He also mentioned the importance of the IHO as a leading body in the development of hydrographic and oceanographic technology and as a backbone for the JCG work. He encouraged the good progress of the work of the SPWG and stressed the importance of this last meeting.



From left: Chairman, one pass JCG Commandant, Vice-chairman



Meeting scene

The Chairman noted the high attendance of approximately sixty representatives to the meeting and expressed his confidence in reaching consensus on the items to be finalized. The SPWG Vice-chairman and host of the meeting, Dr. Nishida welcomed all participants and explained the administrative arrangements.

The Agenda was approved with some minor amendments after the Chairman reviewed the minutes of the previous SPWG Meeting. After “approval of the Agenda (Agenda item 3)”, they had active discussions about the following Agenda items, and the long meeting for four days adjourned.

Agenda item 4 – Summary of Previous Work.

Agenda item 5 – RHC reports.

Agenda item 6 – Pending matters.

Agenda item 7 – Review of the Basic Documents.

Agenda item 8 – Proposals to the Extraordinary IH Conference.

Agenda item 9 – Communications strategy.

Agenda item 10 – Activities from the 5th Meeting until the 3rd Ext. IH Conference.

Agenda item 11 – Any further activity as considered necessary.

The SPWG plans about deciding a structure of new frame and amending a convention including the regulations etc. of IHO were coordinated in principle by this SPWG meeting. These SPWG plans will be proposed at the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference that will be held on April 2005.