

International Symposium on Improvement of ENC Coverage and Availability in Asia

Japan, 13-14 May 2007



The International Symposium on Improvement of ENC Coverage and Availability in Asia and adjacent Area was held in Tokyo from 13 -14 March 2007 under the chairmanship of Dr. Hideo NISHIDA, Japan.

The symposium was organized by Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department and Japan Hydrographic Association, sponsored by the Nippon-foundation, and attended by 17 representatives from 14 countries and IHO.

WEND principles recommend Member States to strive to ensure that mariners can obtain fully updated ENCs for all shipping routes and ports across the world.

The attendees recognized that Asia has many varieties in technology and capacity to produce ENCs. In order to meet the mariners' requirement, the problems of ENCs should be solved, such as coverage, quality, consistency and availability. Accurate ENCs are critical for maritime safety and efficiency to promote worldwide maritime trade.

The International Symposium on Improvement of ENC agreed to cooperate on ENC production on a regional basis, and adopted 'The Record of Discussion'.

The Record of Discussion

- *The participants, who attended the International Symposium on Improvement of ENC Coverage and Availability in Asia and adjacent Area held in Tokyo at 13 and*

14 March 2007,

- *recognizing again that accurate ENC is critical for maritime safety and efficiency to promote worldwide maritime trade,*
- *realizing that ENC has some problems to be solved, such as coverage, quality, consistency and availability,*
- *recalling that WEND principles recommend Member States to strive to ensure that mariners can obtain fully updated ENCs for all shipping routes and ports across the world,*
- *taking into consideration the worldwide challenges to meet obligations to SOLAS Convention for the provision of nautical information to support safety of navigation, and the purpose of WEND,*
- *recognising that Asia has some variety in technology and capacity to produce ENCs, and*
- *having discussed that multiple measures are to be combined to improve ENC coverage, quality, consistency and availability within the region in order to meet the mariners requirement,*
- *agreed to cooperate on ENC production on a regional basis.*

Reported by Japan