

**CHAIRMAN EAHC'S VISIT TO VIETNAM'S MARITIME SAFETY
COMPANY**
Hai Phong, Vietnam, 24 – 25 APRIL 2008



Left: Mr Luu Van Quang (General Director, MSC-1 of Vietnam)
Right: Mr Parry Oei (Chairman of EAHC)

Vietnam has expressed a desire to become a member State of the international hydrographic fraternity so as to better meet its international obligations of nautical charting and hydrography and to promote safe navigation and protection of the marine environment.

2 Following that lead, Mr Parry Oei, Chairman of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) and Mr K.C. Ng, Hydrographer of Hong Kong (China) made an official visit to the Maritime Safety Company 1 (MSC-1) in Hai Phong to further encourage Vietnam to join the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and thereafter the EAHC as some of the major regional shipping routes transect Vietnamese waters. The visit highlights the importance the EAHC places in enlarging its membership and for non-members of EAHC like Vietnam to work closely with EAHC member States in order to better meet the needs of users through harmonized and updated information for the conduct of safe navigation in the region.

3 During the visit the EAHC representatives learnt from Mr Luu Van Quang, General Director, MSC-1 of Vietnam that they are already developing ENC production capability and planning to implement the multibeam sonar survey system. From the perspective that one of the IHO's priorities is to focus on achieving comprehensive global ENC coverage, it would be important for States to closely cooperate to ensure harmonization of the ENCs at a regional level.

4 The trip was a resounding success as Vietnam saw benefits of being a member which included conduct of training programmes and on-going work by the EAHC task group to harmonise ENC information of member States, and also the implementation of the proposed joint survey project in South China Sea.

5 As a follow up to the visit, Vietnam sent 4 representatives from MSC 1 and 2 to attend the EAHC Quality Assurance on Multibeam Survey and Data Processing training course that was conducted from 16 – 19 Jun 2008 in Singapore. This was complemented by a high level delegation led by Director-Generals from MSC 1 and 2, namely Mr Luu Van Quang and Mr Pham Dinh Van respectively. The delegation was present to observe the training course.

6 We look forward to Vietnam being a member of EAHC as soon as possible. It would certainly help in the global effort to increase ENC coverage along major shipping routes. With better ENC coverage, it would provide the encouragement and effort to implement ECDIS so as to enhance navigational safety and protection of the marine environment in our region.