

6th East Asia Hydrographic Commission Coordinating Meeting and
8th EAHC ENC Task Group Meeting
in Okinawa, Japan

The 6th East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Coordinating Meeting (CM) was held at the Okinawa Convention Center conference hall in Okinawa, Japan from 18 to 19 January 2012, followed the 8th EAHC ENC Task Group Meeting from 16 to 17 January. The meetings were attended by the representatives of Hydrographic Offices and organization concerned in the East Asian countries, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Vietnam HOs were invited as observer to the meeting this time considering its application recently submitted to join IHO.

After the opening address by Dr. Shigeru Kato, Chief Hydrographer of Japan, the CM discussed publication of East Asia ENC, capacity building plan in EAHC, and etc., chaired by Vice Admiral Nirut Hongprasith, Chief Hydrographer of Thailand.

As a result, it was agreed to;

1. continue effort and cooperation on publication of East Asia ENC among the member states including the establishment of working group or task group to develop a Mechanism to address regional ENC harmonisation and quality issue,
2. reissue the South China Sea ENCs on 21 June 2012 of World Hydrography Day,
3. EAHC capacity building plan for 2012 and 2013-2017 and so on.

The CM also agreed that EAHC will set up its own panel to showcase EAHC activities showing history of EAHC, SCS ENCs and Catalogue EAHC coverage etc, and the panels of EAHC member states should be placed in the same area to show up the EAHC presence at the 18th International Hydrographic Conference held in the Principality of Monaco in April 2012.

The meeting was broadcast by a local TV news program in Okinawa.

