

Tokyo Declaration
on the importance of hydrographic services
in the event of natural disasters affecting coastal areas

We, the participants of the International Seminar on the importance of hydrographic services against the natural disaster, held in Tokyo from 7 to 8 August 2012:

Recalling that the IHO adopted Resolution 1/2005 “IHO Responses to Disasters (as amended)” in response to the severe impact on safety of navigation caused by the 2004 tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean and the consequent need for hydrographic and charting support. Resolution 1/2005 established procedures and guidelines to support Member States in providing an immediate and appropriate response to such disasters;

Recalling that the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference in April 2012 adopted a Proposal submitted by Japan to amend IHO resolution 1/2005, by providing additional guidance on how relevant bodies such as Member States and Regional Hydrographic Commissions might best cope with such disasters as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Proposal was based on Japan’s experience of the devastating earthquake and consequent severe tsunami that affected northern Japan in March 2011 and the immediate and intensive hydrographic activities undertaken by the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department;

Mindful of the possibility of similar occurrences of natural disasters in East Asia in the future, and the guidance in IHO Resolution 1/2005 as amended, now agree to:

1. **Commit** to promoting and participating in collaborative action including discussion at the meetings of Regional Hydrographic Commissions, thereby enabling States to provide an immediate and appropriate response to any future disasters affecting coastal areas;
2. **Cooperate** with neighbouring States through regular communication, including bilateral discussions, to determine what action to take in anticipation of natural disasters and what action to take to enable a quick response should a disaster occur;
3. **Establish** contingency plans to ensure the immediate assessment of any damage and its effect on safety of navigation and economic activities in a disaster affected area;
4. **Cooperate** with neighbouring States to promulgate maritime safety information and conduct preliminary surveys to secure principal transport routes and sea lanes of communication, according to the extent of the damage, should a disaster occur in coastal areas under the jurisdiction of a State; and
5. **Undertake** hydrographic surveys and keep charts updated in response to any consequential reconstruction or rehabilitation of ports and the re-establishment of the aids to navigation infrastructure.

Adopted at Tokyo, 7 August 2012

<Participant list>

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