



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Commission 4 Meeting

09 October, 2002

**Hydro2002 – 13th International Conference and Exhibition of The Hydrographic Society and the German Hydrographic Society (DHyG).
Kieler Schloss, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany**

1. **Attendees:**

Chairman - Adam Greenland Port of London Authority, UK
Chair of WG 4.4 Education and CPD

Vice Chair - Andrew Leyzack CHS, Central and Arctic Region
Chair of Admin. & Communication

Vice Chair- Adam Kerr GITC – Private Consultant, UK
Chair of WG 4.1 – Strategic Partnership

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| Seppo Makinen | Finnish Maritime Administration |
| Andrew McNeill | Fugro-UDI Ltd. |
| Ruth Adams | UK Hydrographic Office |
| Hans Rohde | International Hydrographic Bureau |
| Steve Ritchie | GITC, Hydro International |
| Ron Whitmore | Institution of Surveyors, Australia |
| Hugo Meister | Hydrographic Society, Denmark |
| Helen Atkinson | Manager, The Hydrographic Society |
| Julian Grant | Chairman, The Hydrographic Society |
| Erling Hansen | Dansk Landinspek |
| David Goodfellow | The Hydrographic Society |
| Christian Andreasen | Vice President, FIG Council |
| John Pinder | Port of London Authority, UK |
| Dr. Joachim Behrens | Federal Institute of Hydrology, AK4-DVW-Chair |
| Dr. Wilried Schlieder | FIG/IHO TACC |
| Dirk Bakker | The Hydrographic Society |

The meeting was called to order at 1035.

2. **Welcome:** Adam Greenland welcomed everyone, introduced himself and acknowledged the efforts of the former chair of Commission 4, Dennis St. Jacques. Adam encouraged those present to refer to the FIG web site (www.FIG.net), current FIG publications (such as the Guide to Standardisation) and a recent article published in Hydro International for additional information on FIG and Commission 4 activities.

3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the 30 May, 2002 Commission 4 Meeting held in Toronto at CHC2002 have been posted on the FIG Commission 4 web site.



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4. **Introduction to FIG:** To help facilitate the communication to those attending the meeting, Adam Greenland augmented his talk with a “power point” presentation, giving an overview of FIG and its purpose. Currently FIG represents approx. 122 national survey associations and is the only international body to represent all survey disciplines. FIG is an recognised NGO (non-government org.) whose purpose is to support international collaboration towards the progress of surveying in all fields and all disciplines. Adam identified the various FIG member classes, calling attention to the fact that there are 30 participating countries which have more than one member association. In the UK for example, there is representation from the RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors) and RCES (Royal Institute of Chartered Engineering Surveyors).

Adam also called attention to the surveying education database as well as the permanent institutions within FIG, the various FIG Commissions, Commission 4 Vice-Chairs and delegates. The next Comm 4 meeting will be held at the FIG working week, 13-17 April 2003 in Paris, France (125th anniversary of FIG) where the chairs of the working groups will present their work to date and decide upon future action.

5. **Commission 4 Workplan:** The terms of reference for the Commission 4 work plan were listed and described as well as the mission statement, working groups and the two joint IHO/FIG committees (TACC and IAB). Adam Greenland concluded his description of the work plan by encouraging all national hydrographic societies/associations to join FIG and identified two avenues for doing so: by direct membership of the national hydrographic society/association or through The Hydrographic Society (THS).

6. **WG 4.1-Strategic Partnerships:** Adam Kerr referred to his presentation at CHC2002 in Toronto last May and offered a perspective on the factors which, have in the past, influenced FIG Commission 4 activity in joint ventures with its “sister organisations”. He acknowledged past periods of activity and inactivity in Commission 4 largely dependant upon the chair at the time. Mr. Kerr also reiterated that IHO members have been well financed whereas FIG representatives on joint IHO/FIG groups have not been able to benefit from the same level of financial support, thus Commission 4 participation has suffered. He acknowledged the financial contribution made by THS in the past to these joint groups.

Adam Kerr spoke of the changes going on within THS in terms of the restructuring and suggested that there was uncertainty as to who will join the new ‘THS’ federation. While considering federating, all national hydrographic societies/associations should consider the products of such a strategic alliance such as publications and services.

Chris Andreasen offered a brief background on existing relationships between FIG and sister organisations, in particular those with bilateral agreements. Mr. Andreasen referred to the MOUs (Memorandums Of Understanding) already in place including IHO, ICA and ISPRS and in particular, a new MOU being drafted between FIG and IHO.



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Hans Rohde spoke of the current IHO Strategic working group which is due to present its findings and recommendations at an extra ordinary IHO conference in 2005. Mr. Rohde expressed his concern that non IHO members on joint IHO committees are not properly supported financially and the difficulties that can then arise in attending meetings and participating fully in the work of the groups. He stressed that each member to any future joint committee/group must be properly funded.

Julian Grant (THS Chairman) then spoke of the present situation within THS. Julian reported that THS has been working for the past five years to action the necessary changes as a result of the need for autonomy among the original THS branches. At the next THS AGM on 28 November 2002, all of the original branches will become separate national societies/associations and the IFHS (International Federation of Hydrographic Societies) will be formed. A five-year business plan with budget is in place and operational costs have been reduced by transferring operations to a virtual office managed by Helen Atkinson. The newly formed IFHS management committee will be comprised of representatives from each member national society. This federation will have a number of roles - it will provide an opportunity for the national societies to link together and to provide certain services such as a journal and as a facilitator of conferences. Mr. Grant closed by stating that one of the aims of the IFHS is to be self-financing, streamlining the journal while adopting modern business practices.

7. Oral report and presentation on FIG/IHO TACC: Adam then introduced Wilfried Schlieder and Dirk Bakker who gave a presentation on the work of the joint IHO/FIG Technical Assistance and Cooperation Coordination Committee (TACC). Wilfried opened with a historical perspective, citing the formation of TACC in 1989 (as proposed by Tom McCulloch then chair of Commission 4) in answer to an apparent need to provide technical assistance and cooperation to newly independent nation states seeking to develop their capacity in hydrographic surveying.

Dirk then described the Terms of Reference of TACC with emphasis on its primary function: to create and maintain an inventory of available resources. In particular an inventory of products and services, of available technical assistance and a database of past and present technical assistance projects. The database contains a list of beneficiary countries, a description of (current) joint regional projects, former projects (without follow-up information), training, equipment donations and procedure for [funding] the programs of donor national and international organisations and agencies.

Wilfried outlined a proposal for a project to monitor Hydrography in Developing Countries. The project would be in cooperation with African Hydrographic Consultants, with support from the UK Hydrographic Office and Mumbai Group, India. Wilfried also offered a proposal for activities after the FIG withdrawal from TACC, suggesting the adaptation of a database by FIG as an NGO for technical assistance and cooperation in hydrographic projects for developing countries in the non-IHO sector.



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Hans Rohde commented on the future role of national hydrographic offices with regard to that of data provider, apart from nautical charting. The separation between the non-IHO commercial sector and the national hydrographic offices would diminish over the next few years due to the demand for additional products containing hydrographic data.

Adam Kerr commented on the broad effects of the Revised Chapter 5, SOLAS requirements with relevance to additional responsibilities on nations who are party to SOLAS to provide for their own hydrographic services. He also questioned the usefulness of monitoring projects in view of the complications arising from the political nature of support for funding from “donor” countries.

Chris Andreasen elaborated on past experiences where despite having access to information on donor countries/services there was no control over the access of member (donor) countries in a given area. This results in a convergence of multiple countries with multiple (and sometimes hidden) agendas. In addition, the lack of reporting on such projects makes it difficult to properly administer. Furthermore, a strain on the FIG budget and dispersion of funds has put a restriction on FIG’s ability to adequately support its chairs. Mr. Andreasen commented on the existing support from Denmark for the permanent FIG office and funding from the US while acknowledging that limited funds restrict the level of assistance to FIG chairs and committee members.

Adam Greenland stated that increased financial support for FIG Comm 4 programs would come in the future. However, at this time, it was not possible to support any further work within TACC and therefore Commission 4 would withdraw from this joint committee.

In closing Adam thanked Dirk and Wilfried for their presentation and stated that the database would be passed to the IHO for future work. Mr. Greenland acknowledged the work that Dirk and Wilfried have done over the years as members of TACC and thanked them for their valuable contribution.

Any Other Business – None

With no other business to attend to, Adam Greenland thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and asked that they refer to the Commission 4 web site for current news and information. In closing, Adam also encouraged the attendees to consider the merits of joining FIG and contribute to the on-going work of Commission 4 ‘Hydrography’.

The meeting was adjourned at 1145.