

International Standards for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers

Gordon Johnston (United Kingdom)

Key words: Capacity building; Cartography; Coastal Zone Management; Curricula; Education; Hydrography; Marine cadastre; Professional practice; Risk management; Standards; Young surveyor; Competencies, Registration, UN-SDG

SUMMARY

Expectations and demands for education and training and the achievement and maintenance of core and new competencies in the hydrographic community are changing apace. There are accepted international minimum competency standards, the International Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (FIG/IHO/ICA), that have served the profession well. However the increased awareness and realization of the importance of our seas and oceans, as demonstrated by the UN-SDG 14, means that the expectations and demands for surveyors with appropriate education and training is also changing. A recent review against the changing expectations has resulted in the latest edition but is it reasonable to expect the training and education requirements to be met and sustained going forward and how can FIG play its part in developing the capacity and benefiting the coastal and ocean dependent societies?

This paper explores the developing requirements in relation to the Standards and despite the constructive work of FIG to create the successful implementation of these Standards, identifies issues and challenges that the international surveyors should consider if the profession is to remain relevant. Some points are identified and offered to support the profession in sustaining its positive role.