

Commission 4: Report on Activities 1998 to 2002

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Key words:

ABSTRACT

The terms of reference for FIG Commission 4 are as follows:

- Promote the aims and objectives of FIG to Hydrographers through the active involvement of national delegates from member associations and other interested parties in the activities of the Commission.
- Develop guidelines and standards that will assist Hydrographers in the provision of their services.
- Disseminate information relevant to the profession through participation in international meetings, conferences and committees.

These objectives are pursued through a number of activities including Commission 4 sponsored workshops and working groups engaged in investigating and reporting on specific topics and the activities of two standing committees with the joint participation of the International Hydrographic Organization.

As mentioned above, Commission 4 represents FIG in two FIG/IHO standing committees: the International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Co-ordination Committee (TACC). The Advisory Board has two primary responsibilities: the development and updating of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and the recognition of courses given by educational institutions that meet these Standards. The Board also produces a publication of the standards, which is currently in its 8th edition.

The Technical Assistance and Cooperation Coordinating Committee has the following Terms of Reference:

1.1. Assess continuously the hydrographic surveying, bathymetric maps, nautical charting and nautical information status of nations and regions where hydrography is developing and provide guidelines for the development of local hydrographic capabilities.

1.2. Actively promotes the correct perception of the importance of proper hydrographic surveying, bathymetric maps, nautical charting and nautical information to all coastal states. Encourage the co-ordinated provision of technical and financial assistance to hydrographic development projects by establishing close relationships with national agencies and relevant international organizations which may provide funding or other support.

1.3. Encourage and subsequently follow the development of bilateral or multi-lateral arrangements between countries having well established Hydrographic Offices, and hydrographic survey organizations, and those desiring to establish or expand their hydrographic capabilities.

1.4. Maintain a current inventory of all hydrographic surveying, bathymetric maps, nautical charting and nautical information projects involving co-operation with or technical assistance to nations which do not yet have adequate capabilities. Such projects can include academic and on-the-job training, provision of expert advice and provision or loan of equipment which may be under consideration, in progress or recently completed. Maintain, as well, a current inventory of assistance opportunities available from potential donor nations.

1.5. Make such inventories available to international and national organizations and funding or contributing agencies, so as to ensure maximum benefit and avoid waste or duplication of expense and effort. Unless stated otherwise, the information provided to the Committee will be made available on request.

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