



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION (IHO)  
AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG)**

**1. Parties**

This document constitutes an agreement between The International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

**2. Background**

The IHO and FIG each recognises that the other is an international organisation with many complementary activities serving similar professional constituencies.

IHO is an Inter Governmental Organisation of consultative and technical nature comprising over 70 member states represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardisation of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics.

FIG is a Non-Government Organisation that collaborates with UN agencies and other international organisations to support progress in all fields and applications of surveying. FIG represents academic, commercial and public and private surveyors world-wide and specialises in technical and professional areas including surveying education and professional standards, hydrography, positioning and measurement, surveying, mapping, engineering surveys, geographic information systems, cadastre and land management together with marine cadastre, land and environmental planning plus the development of coastal zones and property valuation and the management of real estate.

**3. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organisations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organisations.

**4. Programme of Activities**

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organisations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:



1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organisations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest
2. Each organisation should inform the other of all Commissions, Working groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate. In FIG the lead role in this co-operation is the responsibility of Commission 4 'Hydrography'.
3. Each organisation should inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Both organisations should identify opportunities to organise specialised seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship.
5. Both organisations confirm their commitment in the work of the joint IHO/FIG/International Cartographic Organisation (ICA) Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, which will be implemented under the rules adopted for this Advisory Board.
6. Each organisation should invite a representative from the other organisation to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

## 5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organisation can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organisations.

## 6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organisations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or FIG proposes changes to it. Each organisation has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organisations.

Date: 25 May 2004

On behalf of IHO

On behalf of FIG

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos  
President IHB

Univ. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel  
President of FIG