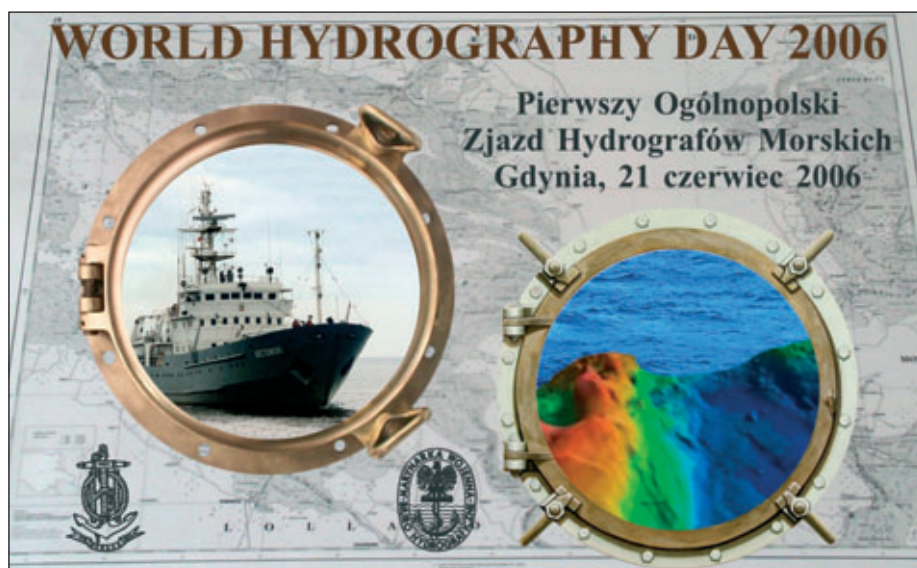


# Celebrating 85 Years of Advan

## World Hydrography Day

The United Nations, in its General Assembly Resolution A/60/30 of 29 November 2005, 'Welcomes the adoption by the International Hydrographic Organization of the 'World Hydrography Day'. It is celebrated annually on June 21st, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all levels and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis. Furthermore it urges all States to work with that organization to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas.'

By Huibert-Jan Lekkerkerk



World Hydrography Day poster developed by the Polish Hydrographic Service. (source: [www.iho.shom.fr](http://www.iho.shom.fr))

### Safe Navigation

Hydrography is probably one of the oldest professions of geography. Until the 1950's this discipline was primarily interested in the safe navigation of waterways. Since then, with the development of offshore oil production and the extension of ports and waterways it has spread to the exploration and construction industry as well. Hydrography is mainly concerned with offshore positioning, depth, tidal and current measurements and all geographic features, both anthropogenic and natural, that pose a hazard or can assist construction work and the safe navigation of vessels. The principal product of hydrography is the nautical chart; either in digital or

paper form. Until the middle of the 20th century hydrography was a cumbersome job involving a lot of manual labour. Since the Second World War the profession has been automated rapidly with the advent of computers, the multibeam echosounder and electronic (satellite) positioning.

### World Hydrography day

The theme for the first year of celebrations in 2006 is '85 years of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHO) contributing to worldwide safety to navigation'. The date of this first annual celebration, June 21, coincides with the establishment of the International Hydrographic Bureau, based in Monaco by Prince Albert 1st in 1921. The goal of this

special day is to provide education and awareness to the field of hydrography and encourage the active participation of agencies and scientists around the world to increase the global coverage of hydrographic information. There are over 70 member states belonging to the IHO and each country will be celebrating World Hydrography Day in its own special way. A number of hydrographic offices celebrated with workshops, lectures or presentations to the general public. Special events to be mentioned were hosted in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

### United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom a drinks reception followed by a gala dinner was hosted by United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) chief executive dr. Wyn Williams, who welcomed the Minister of State for Transport Dr Stephen Ladyman.

To celebrate World Hydrography Day, Dr Wyn Williams announced the launch of the Alexander Dalrymple Award, who, following orders from King George III in 1795, set up the Hydrographic Office, and is renowned today as a leading figure in the world of hydrography. The Award is a symbol of recognition for outstanding dedication and contribution to World Hydrography and as such will become an extremely prestigious award in this sector. This year the prize was awarded for the first time, to Rear Admiral Stephen Ritchie CB DSC for his exceptional devotion to World Hydrography.

The International Hydrographic Organization is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization that was established in 1921 to support safety in navigation and the protection of the marine environment. The object of the Organization is to bring about:

- The coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices;
- The greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents;
- The adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys;
- The development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography.

# cement in Safe Navigation



UKHO chief executive dr. Wyn Williams presenting the Dalrymple award to RA Stephen Ritchie.  
(source: [www.ukho.gov.uk](http://www.ukho.gov.uk))

new location of the Netherlands Hydrographic Office by revealing the first Electronical Navigational Chart (ENC) produced at the new location. The opening mentioned as 'a new era for personnel and organisation of the – Netherlands - Hydrographic Office', signifying the transition from the old location where the office was located for the last 82 years to the new location.

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Rear Admiral Stephen Ritchie CB DSC FRICS is an illustrious name and living legend in hydrographic circles. He joined the British surveying service in 1936 and has worked in hydrographic surveying until his retirement. During his professional career Ritchie has been Hydrographer of the Navy (1966 – 1971) and president of the directing committee of the IHB (1972 – 1982). After his retirement from active service he has been an active supporter of hydrography appearing at about all major events worldwide. Ritchie has been awarded a number of prestigious prizes in the past. He is also the author of a number of books and quite a few articles and papers on hydrography and oceanography.

## The Netherlands

Another special event took place in the Netherlands where, at the 21st of June, the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy, Vice-admiral Jan Willem Kelder, opened the