



Assisting Haiti Recover its Hydrographic Capabilities

By Carlos Tejada

Another interesting project conducted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) in conjunction with institutes and organizations from the public and private sector, who will be working together to help Haiti recover its hydrographic capabilities after the earthquake. Among them, HYPACK® as the primary tool for planning, collecting and processing its hydrographic information.

In January 10, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti; which not only affected numerous lives and properties, but also changed several navigation channels, affected the coastline and damaged the infrastructure of a lot of the maritime ports making the existing nautical charts outdated and adding risk to the navigation in Haitian waters.

Many organizations around the world have come to help Haitians with their difficult situation. Among them, the IHO Capacity Building Sub-committee with the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation Committee have implemented a Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting workshop aiming to develop Haiti's hydrographic capabilities and to help the country provide quality nautical information that will improve the safety of navigation and update the nautical charts. With the equipment loaned, the software donated, the important training in hydrography and nautical cartography provided by this project, the Service Hydrographique & Oceanographique d'Haiti" (SHOH) will be able to conduct hydrographic surveys that will determine the seabed changes which occurred after the earthquake.

HYPACK® will be the primary tool for collecting and processing the hydrographic information and therefore, we are honored to participate in this project among other industry partners and the national hydrographic office of France. To help with this recovery project, HYPACK will donate software and will join with PAIGH, IHO, and other industry partners to sponsor the activities in Haiti necessary to develop capacity in hydrographic surveying and nautical charting.

For this workshop, those partner institutions will facilitate information, provide all the basic equipment required to produce order 1 A hydrographic data, provide the training required to collect, process and produce the hydrographic products and nautical charts required by the country and all commercial and private ships that transit and operate in Haitians waters.

HYPACK is committed to contribute to the success of this project.