

Robert Ward

Robert Ward is one of the three co-Directors of the International Hydrographic Bureau, the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization. His principal responsibility is the oversight of the technical program of the IHO. He is also the Director assigned to the Baltic, Canada and the US, East Asia, Nordic, and the South West Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

He was born in England and is a hydrographic surveyor. He served firstly in the UK Royal Navy Surveying Service before transferring to the Royal Australian Navy in 1983. He also served for a short time as a deck officer in the British merchant navy.

In a 34 year naval career, more than 20 of which was spent at sea, he has been involved in hydrographic and oceanographic surveys across the world. His last sea posting was in command of the Australian surveying ship *HMAS Moresby*. Ashore, he served as an instructor at the Royal Navy Hydrographic School in Plymouth, UK and as the Officer in Charge of the Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic School in Sydney. Prior to leaving the Navy in 2007, he was Deputy Hydrographer of Australia.

He has a long history of involvement in national and international hydrographic relations with particular emphasis on the implementation and development of policies associated with electronic chart navigation and digital hydrographic data. He has wide experience of the IHO, IMO and related inter-governmental organisations dealing with navigation safety and standards. He has been instrumental in the implementation of both military and commercial electronic charting standards worldwide, serving on a number of committees and working groups including as Chairman of the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS), the then technical steering committee of the IHO.

