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Hydrographic & Occanographic Dept,  
Japan Coast Guard

**Japanese Nautical Charts Printed-on-Demand  
now available across the world**

**Introducing Print-on-Demand (POD) Japanese Nautical Charts**

*- Neat and Clean - no more hand-written corrections, no more patches*

Japan Coast Guard (JCG) has been publishing a series of nautical charts written in English (JP Charts) so that the vessels with non-Japanese-speaking crews on board can sail safely in the sea around Japan. To ensure the easy availability, these paper JP charts in English have been sold at chart sales agents and distributors in many countries through UKHO's wide sales channel around the world, as a result of the close collaboration with United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

Up until now, all the JP charts have been printed at UKHO, and if Notices to Mariners (NM) were issued, those changes would have been added to the charts manually –with corrections in hand-writing and patches- before being sold. Meanwhile, in some chart- making countries such as the U.S. and Australia, charts are published in POD method in which charts with the latest information are printed on demand, on the spot.

Now that the JCG has started to provide JP paper charts written in English using POD, JP charts have become available at 111 chart sales agents and distributors in 60 countries, including two distributors in Japan (located in Yokohama and Kobe). This will enable the mariners/users to purchase the very latest charts in a clean state – no messy correction with hand-writing or patches- at chart agents. The latest information and corrections notified in the NM have already been added to the charts and will be printed on the spot, neat and clean.

Prior to this event, on November 13th, UKHO National Hydrographer and JCG Chief Hydrographer met and with a firm handshake, they confirmed their mutual agreement on the collaboration concerning POD implementation.

