



IHB File No. S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 61/2016
4 November 2016

THEME FOR WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2017

Reference: IHO CL 40/2016 dated 22 August - *World Hydrography Day –Proposed theme for 2017*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In the Reference, the Directing Committee proposed “*Mapping our seas and oceans - more important than ever*” as the theme for the celebration of World Hydrography Day in 2017 (WHD-2017). The IHO Secretariat thanks the following Member States for their responses: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ireland, Peru, Portugal, UK, USA and Uruguay. Their comments are provided in the Annex to this letter.
2. Several Member States supported the proposal. Others proposed adjustments to the proposed wording of the WHD theme. Bangladesh expressed its preference for a theme that highlights the role that hydrography plays in naval warfare.
3. The Directing Committee has carefully considered the comments from the Member States, and has made a small adjustment to its original proposal. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2017 will therefore be:

“Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways - more important than ever”

4. In support of WHD-2017 the IHO Secretariat will organize:
 - A dedicated page on the IHO web site, where papers and other material relevant to the celebration and reflecting the variety of activities supported by hydrography will be posted and which Member States and other IHO stakeholders may use as appropriate.
 - Various activities with schools in the Monaco area in order to raise awareness about hydrography, the scope and significance of WHD and the theme of the celebration.
5. The IHO Secretariat will arrange several celebratory events for WHD-2017 in Monaco as in the past. Details will be provided in due course.
6. Meanwhile, Member States are invited to forward to the Secretariat any material that they may create in support of their national WHD-2017 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

7. The Secretariat also welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve the organization and support of this annual event.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a period at the end.

Robert WARD
President

Annex: Summary of Comments from Member States

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

Bangladesh

1. It has been observed that, last few WHD themes were made on the basis of hydrographic involvement in ocean economy/ Blue Water activities and not touching the warfare and naval operation aspect. It is to be noted that since the ancient history of time, weather and environment has influenced the courses of war. Several wars were lost only due to ignoring the weather factors; again many wars were won utilizing the oceanographic factors and meticulous updating of bathymetric information. Hydrography provides information of the sea, which facilitates naval commanders for effective tactical planning. Again in the modern warfare commanders need the knowledge of ocean and sea to operate high tech equipment like sonar, submarine, torpedo, underwater communication devices etc.

2. Most of the hydrographic services around the world are owned by suitable organization of their Ministry of Defense or by the navy in general. Though it is worth mentioning that, hydrography is closely linked with the naval warfare/ operations. But, in most of the countries hydrographic activities are considered as a lower level or auxiliary part of services, and thus its importance is not duly recognized. Therefore, to boost up the hydrographic image, Bangladesh has chosen following 02 themes to build awareness among the naval leaders about the importance of hydrographic operations. The theme of "World Hydrographic Day - 2017" is proposed as:

- a. Naval warfare needs Hydrography, which is often not duly recognized.
- b. "Hydrography facilitates the naval operation," - is often neglected.

Brazil

Regarding CL 40/2016, on behalf of Vice-Admiral Olson, the DHN would like to congratulate the IHB Directing Committee for the proposed theme for WHD2017, and we would like to present a following suggestion:

"Mapping our seas, oceans and **waterways** - more important than ever."

Canada

Canada supports the choice of the theme, "*Mapping our seas and oceans- more important than ever*" for World Hydrography Day 2017.

It would be fitting, as you have no doubt considered, to promote World Hydrography Day 2017 and this theme at some of the events and activities surrounding the IHO's 1st Assembly in April 2017. Canada thanks the Directing Committee's for its outreach efforts, including World Hydrography Day.

Chile

Recognizing that the subject is extremely wide, we think it would be worth to consider having a focus on matters related, but not limited to the protection of the marine environment, climate change preparedness, sustainable exploitation of living resources, coastal zone management and improvement of models to support natural hazards reduction.

Colombia

The Maritime General Directorate, as responsible of the Hydrographic Office of Colombia, suggests modifying the proposed theme as follows:

“Mapping our seas and oceans – more necessary than ever”

This change is due to the fact that the word “important” implies something that could or could not be achieved. Instead, “necessary” means that it is vital, mandatory and essential to reach the proposed goals. The word “necessary” will have more relevance for the decision-making by the governments.

Croatia

Croatia considers that the proposed theme for WHD 2017 - “Mapping our seas and oceans - more important than ever” - is contemporary and in accordance with the explanation provided by the Directing Committee.

Croatia will plan to celebrate the WHD 2017 in harmony with the finally adopted theme in accordance with our capacities

Peru

This Directorate agrees with the proposed theme that creates awareness of the significance of nautical cartography for a safer navigation worldwide.

Portugal

The Portuguese Hydrographic Office welcomes the proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2017 (WHD 2017): "Mapping our seas and oceans - more important than ever".

Innovative processes for gathering and maximizing supplementary hydrographic data such as satellite derived bathymetry (SDB) and crowd source bathymetry (CSB) are topics which we are looking forward to develop in the near future. In fact, this office is a partner of "Coastal Waters Research Synergy Framework", a European Union's Horizon 2020 funded project in which SDB is a subject of research and development. In respect to CSB, we have high expectations on the work being developed by the Crowd Source Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG), of which we are members.

UK

With regards to the above Circular Letter the UK welcomes the proposed 2017 WHD theme and suggests that the wording be modified slightly to align with previous year's WHD theme statements:

"Mapping our seas and waterways - more important than ever"

USA

The United States of America is pleased to express its support of the proposed theme. We wish to underscore the importance we share with the IHO, and members of the global community in raising awareness of the wide potential uses of hydrographic data in general and the benefits of making

hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for uses that go well beyond the safety of navigation.

I am pleased to inform you that the United States fully supports the proposed theme "Mapping our seas and oceans - more important than ever."