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CIRCULAR LETTER 03/2018  
11 January 2018

**THEME FOR WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2018**

Reference: IHO CL 62/2017 dated 13 November - *World Hydrography Day – Proposed theme for 2018*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in the Reference, the theme proposed for the celebration of the World Hydrography Day in 2018 (WHD 2018) was "Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways". The IHO Secretariat thanks the following Member States for their responses: Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, Greece, Indonesia, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Singapore and the United Kingdom. Their comments are provided in the Annex to this letter.

2. Member States supported the proposal and highlighted how the theme is related to their national plans for promoting hydrography. It is worth noting the suggestion from the UK for host countries of IHO Committees, Working Groups and Regional Hydrographic Commissions to consider actively promoting the WHD theme during these events throughout the year.

3. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2018 is therefore:

***"Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways"***

4. In support of WHD 2018 the IHO Secretariat will organize a dedicated page on the IHO web site, where papers and other material relevant to the celebration will be posted. Member States and Stakeholders are invited to forward to the Secretariat any material that they may create in support of their national WHD 2018 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

5. The IHO Secretariat will arrange celebratory events for WHD 2018 in Monaco as in the past. Details will be provided in due course.

6. The Secretariat also welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve the organization and support of this annual event or future activities.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General

Annex: Summary of Comments from Member States

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

### **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh agrees with the proposed theme, "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways" for the World Hydrographic Day 2018. The theme will raise awareness about the hydrographic activities which facilitate in all spheres of mankind's well-being for using the seas, oceans and waterways as well as national economic growth in a sustained manner. Bangladesh will plan to celebrate the World Hydrographic Day 2018 for raising awareness in accordance with the finally adopted theme.

### **Canada**

Canada supports the choice of the theme, "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways" for World Hydrography Day 2018. Canada thanks the IHO Secretariat for its outreach efforts, including World Hydrography Day.

### **Chile**

We strongly support the proposed theme for the WHD-2018. We consider this an outstanding opportunity to raise the priority that bathymetry should have, as without it, there is no possibility to improve nautical charts and to contribute to marine scientific research.

### **Ecuador**

I would like to mention that this Member State congratulates the Secretariat of the Organization for its initiative and agrees with the proposed theme for the World Hydrography Day 2018, "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways".

### **Indonesia**

Pushidrosal in the name of Indonesian government agrees with the theme being proposed by the IHO Secretary-General, "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways". This theme relates with the Indonesian government goal concerning the maritime development all over the Indonesian waters and also the world's.

### **Malta**

Malta agrees with the proposed theme for 2018 that is "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways". This was discussed in detail during the IHO Council-1 and so I am of the opinion that without Bathymetry the Navigation Charts would be useless. And this theme fits very well the purpose.

### **Portugal**

Portugal supports the proposed theme for the World Hydrography Day 2018 (WHD 2018) "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways" and agrees that this theme will help to raise awareness for a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor and the natural processes associated with their change. This knowledge is not only essential for the safety of navigation but it is crucial for all kinds of human activities developed offshore,

For this reason, Portugal welcomes the choice of the proposed theme, and considers that it is a great opportunity to promote not only the national hydrographic surveying project "Mapeamento do Mar Português" but also innovative and supplementary hydrographic data acquisition techniques such as crowd-sourced bathymetry and satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).

As such, the Portuguese Hydrographic Office plans to host, from 19 to 21 June 2018, the 5th Hydrographic Engineering Conferences (5<sup>as</sup> Jornadas de Engenharia Hidrográfica) subordinated to the proposed theme for the WHD 2018.

## **UK**

In response to the above Circular Letter, the UK supports the proposed 2018 WHD theme especially with its synergy to the outcome of the UN Ocean Conference in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 concerning the ocean.

The UK are planning to celebrate the 2018 WHD theme at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting, hosted in London in October 2018, to raise the profile of hydrography with UK maritime stakeholders. Perhaps other meeting hosts for IHO Committees, Working Groups and Regional Hydrographic Commissions should consider actively promoting the WHD theme during these events throughout the year.