

IHB File No. S1/5051

**CIRCULAR LETTER 52/1999**  
**12 November 1999**

**OFFICIAL DISBANDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR SURVEYS AND MAPPING (IUSM)**

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 22/1994 of 20 May 1994

Dear Sir,

As indicated in CL 22/1994, an official application was made by the IHO to join the IUSM on 30 March 1993. At that time IUSM membership included, in addition to the IHO, the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the Spatially-Oriented Referencing Systems Association (SORSA) and the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG).

However, although initially there were noble ambitions and plans, a general lack of support of IUSM activities was noted over the years. In 1995, at an IUSM workshop in Boulder, USA, a new vision and goals for the future were adopted, but, unfortunately, very few goals were accomplished. In 1997, the ISPRS decided to withdraw from the IUSM. In 1998, at a meeting in Brighton, UK, an attempt was made to have more flexibility within IUSM. However, in February 1999, FIG also indicated their intention to leave IUSM.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the IUSM Executive Board was held in Ottawa, Canada on 14 August 1999. Ingénieur en Chef Michel HUET (Professional Assistant at the IHB for Cartography) represented the IHO at this meeting. All the other IUSM member organizations were also represented. During the meeting the IHO announced their intention to withdraw from IUSM as there seemed to be little benefit to be gained from multi-lateral agreements with the other organizations through IUSM. The IHO favours bilateral agreements such as the IHO-FIG arrangement.

After discussion, participants voted unanimously to **formally disband IUSM** in a constitutionally correct manner, as described in its charter (1 March 1998).

At the same time, it was decided to start an informal co-operation arrangement between ex-IUSM member organizations<sup>1</sup>, leading to annual meetings. These annual meetings will be organized by one of the organizations, which will be in charge of all arrangements for the full calendar year preceding a meeting and will provide the chair and the secretary for the meeting and will be

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<sup>1</sup> IAG, ICA, IHO, ISPRS, SORSA, FIG.

responsible for preparing the agenda, distributing the minutes, etc. No fees will be involved in this new arrangement.

The ISPRS proposed to start in 2000 and to plan the first meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in conjunction with the July 2000 ISPRS Congress. IAG offered to host the second meeting in Budapest, Hungary, in 2001. These two offers were accepted.

The IHB will keep the IHO Member States informed of any further developments.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO  
President