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CIRCULAR LETTER 40/2002
26 September 2002

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

Dear Hydrographer,

At the 25th North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden from 10 to 13 September 2002, the representative of the United Kingdom reported on interesting International Training Courses being offered by the UKHO and the Royal Navy Hydrographic and Meteorology School (RNHMS), related to hydrography and aside techniques.

For your information, further details are provided in the Annex to this CL.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex 1 (English only)

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

The **UKHO** has offered training to the international community for many years, with requests ranging from assistance in chart production to the design and delivery of bespoke courses.

In more recent years, the UKHO's international training was consolidated into the four modules advertised in S-47 as follows:

Module 1 : Hydrographic data processing and Marine Cartography (8 weeks)
£5000 per student.
Module 2 : Digital reprographic techniques (1 week)
£1000.
Module 3: Traditional reprographic techniques (1 week)
£1000
Module 4: Work experience (12 weeks)
£4400.

The take up for the programme has been surprisingly low given the standard of the training on offer, and has largely been attributed to the duration of the course, combined with course fees and accompanying travel and subsistence costs. This has proved prohibitively expensive for some developing nations, and has also proved impractical in terms of releasing key staff from small teams for up to 22 weeks.

To increase the accessibility of the training, a new modular training programme was designed in January 2001 offering two main courses: a 5 week modular training course in Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography, and a compact 2 week modular training couse – developed for delivery at other Hydrographic Offices. The latter course is tailored to the requirements of the sponsoring nation, and has successfully been delivered to about 30 students, with more courses scheduled in the coming months. The five week course is run at the UKHO, and places particular emphasis on the International Hydrographic Organization's capacity building programme. This course accommodates 9 students annually to undertake training in a variety of subjects which lay the foundations for data assessment and chart compilation skills. These skills are equally relevant to a conventional or digital production environment. The 2 week course, which can be delivered at overseas HO's, subject to adequate demand and facilities, costs £5000 for up to 10 students plus the travel and subsistence costs of the trainer(s). The 5 week course costs £1875 per student plus their own travel and subsistence costs.

Sponsorship is offered in the form of bursaries which cover the cost of tuition. In certain circumstances the cost of travel, food and accommodation can also be sponsored. There is a selection process to ensure that sponsorship is offered to the countries considered to benefit most from the free tuition in line with the capacity building programme. The UKHO sponsored 3 candidates for the 5 week course in 2002, and arrangements are already underway to maximize the number of attendees in 2003. Sponsorship is available for both courses, subject to availability and selection.

Literature advertising both courses was issued to sixty-five countries at the 2002 IHO Conference, and copies are available from the International Training Manager (UKHO). Questionnaires were also circulated to establish the likely demand for training. While there has been an encouraging amount of interest, very few countries have actually sought to confirm any places. Feedback is encouraged from all those wishing to attend either course, so that dates can be scheduled and appropriate arrangements put in place (including security clearances).

For the future the UKHO is looking to gain IHO/FIG accreditation for the 18 week trainee compiler course in 2003. As both the 5 and 2 week international training courses are

derived from the 18 week course, it is hoped that formal certification may be offered to those who successfully complete UKHO training. The UKHO is also investigating higher level (degree and above) training, and plans to provide more details next year.

The Royal Navy Hydrographic and Meteorology School (RNHMS) (formerly the RN Hydrographic School) in HMS Drake is undergoing expansion to incorporate the RN School of Meteorology and Oceanography which is currently based at the Royal Naval Air Station CULDROSE in Cornwall. The HM School has acquired an adjacent building and conversion work is currently underway with the fully integrated School being operational from Easter (April) 2003. This will enable the School to offer courses covering the use and charting of the entire marine environment.

The following courses are currently scheduled:-

FIG/IHO/ICA Category A Courses
FIG/IHO/ICA Category B Courses
Petty Officers' Course
Commercial Courses

The dates for these courses can be obtained from the UKHO.

The expansion of the RN HM School staff by 3 former instructors, now retired from the RN and employed by Flagship Training Ltd has permitted the School to offer short courses specifically designed to meet customers' needs.

The FIG/IHO International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors was enhanced in 2001/2002 to include 2 representatives from the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and will also now cover Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers.

The UK will host the 2003 meeting of the International Advisory Board from 3–11 June. At this meeting the RN HM School will be submitting its Category B Course for re-accreditation. The Category A Course was re-accredited in 1999. The UKHO will submit its cartographic course for Category B recognition under the new cartographic standards.

(Information provided by the UK representative at the 25th NSHC Conference, Sweden, September 2002)