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CIRCULAR LETTER 128/2005
19 December 2005

**RELEASE OF OFFICIAL MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS
ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS (MSS ENC)**

Dear Hydrographer,

We have been informed by the Executive Director of the Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA), Dr. Hideo Nishida, that a decision has been reached by the Hydrographic Offices of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, together with the Japan Hydrographic Association, for the commercial release of the official Malacca and Singapore Straits Electronic Navigational Charts (MSS ENC) on 26 December 2005.

This is a very positive development in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore which form the main seaway connecting the Indian Ocean, via the Andaman Sea, to the South China Sea. The Straits of Malacca and Singapore are vital to the economic development and trade for the three littoral States, but also to many other countries whose vessels pass through them. Oil tankers, bulk carriers and general cargo ships carrying oil and manufactured commodities from Europe and Asia pass through the Straits. It is certain that the use of the ENCs with ECDIS will increase the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment in this sensitive area for international navigation.

The Hydrographic Department of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore will be the coordinator for four years to maintain and update the MCC ENCs, while the ENCs will be sold to the public by the Hydrographic Offices of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and the JHA through their appointed distributors and sales agents.

The Bureau will present a paper at the next IMO MSC Meeting to inform its Member States, the International Chamber of Shipping, INTERTANKO and others on this development.

We attach, for your information, the letter addressed to the President of the Directing Committee by Dr. Hideo Nishida, Executive Director of the JHA, and the Joint Press Release issued by the Hydrographic Offices of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and JHA, announcing the commercial release of the official MCC ENCs

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Encls: - Letter from JHA dated 19 December 2005 and Joint Press Release.

JAPAN HYDROGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

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(U R G E N T)

Dated: 19th December 2005

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President
International Hydrographic Bureau
Monaco

Dear Admiral Maratos,

I am pleased to inform you that the electronic navigational chart of the Malacca and Singapore Straits (MSS ENC) will finally be released to the public on 26th December 2005. This decision was agreed at the First Meeting of the MSS ENC Steering Committee held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8th December 2005, attended by the representatives of the Hydrographic Offices of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Japan Hydrographic Association that is playing a key role in distribution of MSS ENC. The joint press release adopted by the Steering Committee will be disclosed as of 20th December 2005, which is attached herewith.

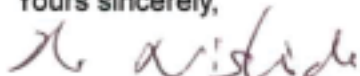
I would like to ask you to kindly announce this information to the world hydrographic communities as well as to IMO and other international maritime and shipping organizations.

The MSS ENC has been produced by the joint strenuous efforts of the Hydrographic Offices of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan since 1995, supported by the Nippon Foundation and JICA. We do hope that this first official ENC covering the Malacca and Singapore Straits will enhance safer and more economical navigation through the Straits as well as contribute to protection and preservation of marine environments in these waters.

The Hydrographic Department of Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore will take the role of coordinator for four years to maintain and update MSS ENC, while the ENC will be sold to the public from the three Hydrographic Offices and the Japan Hydrographic Association through their appointed distributors. The Japan Hydrographic Association will assume the task of Appointed Administrator of the commercial release of MSS ENC as well as take the role of Secretariat of the MSS ENC Steering Committee.

I wish you and all of the IHB staff Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Hideo Nishida, Executive Director

Attachment: Joint Press Release

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE
COMMERCIAL RELEASE OF THE OFFICIAL
MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS
ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHART**

The Hydrographic Offices (HOs) of the three littoral states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, of the Malacca and Singapore Straits, together with Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA), jointly announce the commercial release of official Malacca and Singapore Straits Electronic Navigational Charts (MSS ENC) on 26 December 2005.

2 The MSS ENC consist of six cells covering west of Port Kelang, Malaysia, Riau waters of Indonesia, and to the eastern entrance of the Singapore Strait. The first official MSS ENC was jointly produced by the HOs of the three littoral states. The successful ENC production was also achieved through the technical cooperation of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard and supported by the Government of Japan and the Nippon Foundation.

3 The official MSS ENC conforms to the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) specifications. The MSS ENC used together with ECDIS is recognized as paper chart equivalent which meets the carriage requirements of the SOLAS Convention (Chapter V/19).

4 It is hoped that the official MSS ENC will serve navigators to conduct smooth continuous passage in one of the world's busiest shipping routes between Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. It is also hoped that the MSS ENC will serve as a useful tool for safer and more economical navigation through this busy waterways, so as to further minimize shipping casualties and for the protection of the marine environment.

5 The MSS ENC will be sold by the HOs of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and JHA through their respective appointed distributors and sales agents.

6. The contact points of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan are:

Indonesia: DISHIDROS

Malaysia: NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CENTER

Singapore: MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY

Japan: JAPAN HYDDROGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Jointly issued by: Dishidros of Indonesia, National Hydrographic Center of Malaysia,
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and Japan Hydrographic
Association of Japan

Dated: 20th December 2005

For further information, please contact: Dr. Yoshio KUBO, Councilor, of Japan Hydrographic Association (Tel. 03-3543-0752; Fax 03-3543-0695).

MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHART (MSS ENC)

Malacca and Singapore Straits Electronic Navigational Chart (MSS ENC)
will be released as follows:

• RELEASED DATE

26 December 2005

• LICENSE TERM AND PRICE

License term is one year and the price is
JPY 25,200 (including Consumption Tax)

• RELEASED CELLS

Coastal navigation

MS30F2TT scale 1/200,000

MS3RS2FC scale 1/200,000

MS3IK2EB scale 1/200,000

Approach

MS4IK2RL scale 1/50,000

MS4BR2JS scale 1/50,000

MS4NS2EB scale 1/75,000

• For more information, please contact:

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