



IHB File No. S3/0123

CIRCULAR LETTER 18/2005
15 February 2005

**SPECIAL SESSION FOR DISCUSSIONS ON TSUNAMI DISASTER
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

Dear Hydrographer,

During a recent meeting between the Directing Committee, the elected President of the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) and the SPWG Chair Group, the DC proposed that a special session should be held, during the 3rd EIHC, to discuss activities associated with the recent Tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean. It was decided that this session should take place on Saturday 16 April in the morning, in order to avoid any conflict with the main Conference discussions.

It is anticipated that during this meeting:

- a. The DC will inform the participants of the actions undertaken by the IHB in liaison with the affected States and in conjunction with other international organizations.
- b. Reports will be provided by the Chairmen of the NIOHC and EAHC which will be meeting in February.
- c. Comments and proposals will be made by the affected States and other participants.
- d. Decisions will be made on any actions required following the information received, for example, the need to develop an Action Plan concerning the IHO response to disasters.

The DC would welcome comments on this issue and would be grateful if Member States could give an indication of whether they would wish to participate in such a session. Practical details regarding the location of the meeting and a draft agenda will be provided in March.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President