



IHB File N° S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 08/2006  
23 January 2006

### WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY (WHD)

Reference : a) CL 11/2004 dated 11 February 2004  
b) CL 76/2005 dated 04 August 2005.

Dear Hydrographer,

The Directing Committee is pleased to announce that the United Nations General Assembly (UN/GA), under the Agenda item on the Oceans and the law of the sea, adopted Resolution A/60/30 on 29 November 2005. This resolution includes the statement, **“Welcomes the adoption by the International Hydrographic Organization of the “World Hydrography Day”, to be celebrated annually on 21 June, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all level and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis, and urges all States to work with that organization to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas”**. The Directing Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Government of Monaco as the host country of the IHO, and the Government of Brazil for all the efforts made by their Permanent missions to UN, in finalizing the drafting and coordinating the integration of this recognition into the Oceans and law of the sea Resolution. We also wish to thank all those Member States that supported the text of this recognition during its discussion at the UN/GA. This Resolution brings to a very satisfactory conclusion the efforts of the Bureau, over the past three years, to achieve recognition of the WHD by the UN/GA.

The Directing Committee proposes the following actions in order to celebrate the WHD on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June every year :

- a. The WHD will be celebrated nationally by Hydrographic Offices and internationally by the IHB in Monaco;
- b. The Directing Committee will select a “theme” for the celebrations each year and propose it to Member States. For the first year of the celebrations in 2006 the DC proposes the theme “85 years of the IHO contributing to worldwide safety to navigation”;
- c. The Directing Committee will prepare a Press Release for use in Monaco, which Member States may also use in the support of their own celebrations. The Bureau will organize a Press Conference in Monaco in order to highlight the significance of the celebrations to the local Media;
- d. An official reception will be organized on the terrace of the Bureau to which will be invited His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, representatives of the

Government and diplomatic missions, other organizations, the local maritime industry, local press and other interested bodies.

Member States are requested to bring to the attention of their Governments, appropriate Administrations, the local maritime industry and other interested bodies, the Resolution of the UN/GA for the recognition of the WHD and through this the significance of the IHO and its Member States Hydrographic Offices contribution to safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, development and security. HOs should organize their national celebrations, taking into account where appropriate, the manner in which the Bureau proposes to celebrate the WHD in Monaco.

The Directing Committee will send a separate letter to the Government of Monaco, thanking them for the efforts of their mission to the UN, explaining the way in which the Organization plans to celebrate the WHD and asking for their support if needed. The Directing Committee will also send letters to other relevant International Organizations (IMO, IOC, IALA), bringing the Resolution of the UN/GA to their attention.

Member States are requested to provide any comments/observations that may have on this matter.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President