

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File No.S1/1900/A

**CIRCULAR LETTER 55/2006
27 July 2006**

REPORT ON WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY

Reference: CL 08/2006 dated 23 January 2006

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHO celebrated the first World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21st June with the following events taking place at the IHB:

- a. The President gave a short interview to local television on the importance of the WHD;
- b. During the period around WHD, local television broadcast a special programme on Hydrography making reference to the WHD;
- c. A reception was held on the Bureau's roof terrace which HSH Prince Albert II honoured by his presence. Members of the Monaco Government, local diplomatic authorities, representatives from the maritime industry and others were also present. The President opened the reception by welcoming the Prince and all the guests and gave a brief statement on the importance of the WHD, highlighting the Organization's contribution to global safety at sea for the past 85 years, according to the theme approved by the Member States. HSH Prince Albert II then gave a brief speech on the history of the IHO's standing commitment to safety of navigation. Following the Prince's speech, the President formally presented the Sovereign Prince with a framed chart of the Svalbard region produced by Norway in 1932, which was the departure point of the Prince's Arctic Expedition in April this year, marking the 100th anniversary of his Great Great Grandfather Prince Albert I's Arctic campaigns in 1906.
- d. The Bureau had prepared a series of posters highlighting the IHO's contribution to safety at sea, and these were displayed on the terrace during the reception for the benefit of the participants. The President and Director of the IHB explained the posters in some detail to HSH Prince Albert II.
- e. The Bureau established a special page on the IHO website, where texts and other materials were posted for the benefit of HOs. It should be further noted that the documentation related to WHD has now been posted under the Bulletin in the section entitled "Others".

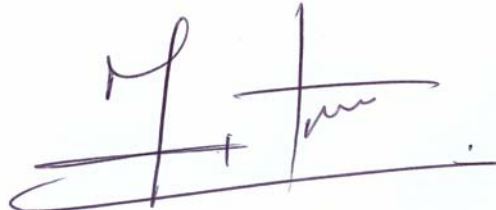
- f. The Bureau provided support to Member States on various topics as it was requested;
- g. The IHO webpage on WHD was linked to similar website pages that had been established by National HOs;
- h. Captain Gorziglia who was absent from the IHB participating in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Edinburgh followed by the IOC Executive Council in Paris, made a brief statement on the WHD on both occasions.

The Directing Committee was informed by Member States on the events that took place on a national level to celebrate the WHD. We believe that the celebration of WHD at the Bureau and by the HOs, nationally, will help to increase public awareness of the importance of hydrography not only to safety at sea, but to many other requirements and applications by scientists, maritime industry, Governmental Agencies, research and Academic institutions and others.

Based on the experience gained in celebrating this first WHD, the Directing Committee welcomes any comments and suggestions from Member States to improve the organization and support of this annual event.

The issue of the ENC's is a very important subject for the IHO, its Member States and, especially, the maritime industry for safety at sea. Some of the IMO's important projects, such as e-navigation, mandatory carriage of ECDIS, MEH in Malacca and Singapore Straits, are based on the ENC's. The Directing Committee would like to propose the theme "Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC's); an essential element of Safety at Sea and Efficient Maritime Operations.» for next year's celebrations. The IHB would welcome any comments you may have on this suggestion.

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