



IHB Files No. S3/2620

CIRCULAR LETTER 116/2007
12 December 2007

NIPPON FOUNDATION - GEBCO TRAINING PROJECT YEAR 5

Reference: a) CL 09/2006 dated 23 January 2006

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The referenced Circular Letter refers to the third course considered under the GEBCO Nippon Foundation Training Program leading to the Graduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry at the University of New Hampshire, USA. A fourth course started in August 2007 and will finish in August 2008.

2 The IHB has been informed by the GEBCO Permanent Secretary that the Nippon Foundation has agreed in principle to the recruitment of students for Year 5 (August 2008 - August 2009). Realising that this early notice will be confirmed around March next year, the IHB has decided to anticipate this information to enable Hydrographic Offices to react timely in the event the course is confirmed.

3 As informed in the past, students undertake an intensive 12-month training period comprising lectures, practical laboratory work and waterborne projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to the institution's teaching staff, other experts are recruited to give specialist lectures. The course content includes acoustics, basin tectonics, bottom composition and acoustic backscatter, data analysis and integration, margin and abyssal sediments, physical oceanography, positioning, satellite altimetry, structure of ocean basins, sonar performance, surface interpolation, survey design, and uncertainty management. Students can also select additional courses from a varied range.

4 The courses will be in English, and candidates must demonstrate the capability to undertake graduate level instruction in English to the satisfaction of the University of New Hampshire. Candidates must be aware that this is an intensive course, even for students whose first language is English. The minimum standard for admission is a four-year Bachelor degree in a related field.

5 **Member States are requested** to consider nominating suitable candidates for the Post-graduate Diploma in Ocean Bathymetry course from among their nationals. Nomination decisions should include consideration of the following points which will be used by the selection committee: Level and subject of degree(s) held by nominee, experience in ocean bathymetry, future opportunities to work on bathymetric projects, likelihood of candidate continuing to work in the field and personal motivation. Applicants are reminded that the program has been structured for candidates without dependents.

6 The IHB will keep Member States informed on the progress of this new opportunity of training. Those wishing to find further details and information about the course can consult www.gebco.net which provides the information for 2007/2008. This page will be updated as soon as confirmation is received from Nippon Foundation.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a smaller 'G' and a final flourish.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director