



IHB File No. TA-6

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 40/2007  
25 April 2007

**CLOSURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY (IMA)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Since early 2006 the IHB has been seeking information on the status and future of the International Maritime Academy (IMA) in Trieste, Italy. As you are no doubt aware, IMA was, for many years, one of the main and most important academic centres providing hydrographic and cartographic training to many students around the world, including students from IHO Member States.
2. Clarification as regards the IMA situation was further requested in July 2006 and again in March 2007, without success, until last week when the IHB received a letter from Professor Iginio Marson, former President of IMA, providing some information. Briefly, the legal structure of IMA was found inadequate to receive and sustain the financial support of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and carry out training activities, and therefore IMA had to be closed down fairly quickly.
3. Professor Marson reported that a new legal entity, which has received the formal approval of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been under discussion for several months, but to date it has not yet been officially created. Finally, he reported that his mandate as President of IMA had been terminated on 31 October 2006. The Rector of the University of Trieste is now in charge and the decisions concerning the future of IMA are in his hands.
4. The IHB has contacted the Rector of the University of Trieste, offering IHO support in any efforts aimed at accelerating the establishment of the new structure of the former IMA. The IHB will remain in contact with the authorities responsible for the future structure and, at the same time, will actively explore other regional training alternatives which may resolve this situation that has left the international hydrographic community without an excellent partner in the capacity building process.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hugo Gorziglia". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director