



IHB File N° S1/1811

CIRCULAR LETTER 65/2008
31 July 2008

FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC REVIEW

Reference: CL 43/2008 dated 29 April 2008.

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the 39 IHO Member States who replied to the CL in the reference. It is clear from the responses received that Member States wish the International Hydrographic Review to continue to be published.

2 Out of the replies received, 10 provided comments strongly supporting option .3, which is a web-based edition of the IHR with peer-reviewed papers, published on the IHO web site using IHB resources and a paid editor. A number of responses emphasized that it was inappropriate for the IHO to issue un-reviewed and un-edited papers. In this regard, one of the responses indicated that it would be better to discontinue the publication if the alternative was to publish articles without any editing or review process.

3 In view of the comments received, the IHB Directing Committee intends to take the following actions:

- a) Inform the world hydrographic community that the IHR will continue as a digital publication available free of charge from the IHO website with up to two peer-reviewed editions a year (April and October), depending on the number of papers and articles submitted and accepted. A printed annual compendium of articles will be made available, free of charge, to IHO Member States only. The above mentioned provisions will begin in 2009.
- b) Invite the current IHR Editor to become the "part time" paid Editor for the web-based version for the first two years (2009 and 2010), a period considered as the transition to the new IHR format. After these first two years the position will be offered for competition. In the event that the current IHR Editor is unable to continue, the Directing Committee, with the help of the IHO Member States, will identify suitable candidates to take up the position of paid Editor. The Directing Committee will then select an Editor from the applicants and define the obligations and overall conditions of the contract. In any case there will be no impact on the already approved budget.
- c) To facilitate the digital publishing and the limited printing process, the Directing Committee, with help from the Editor, will review the existing technical instructions for contributors and put appropriate procedures in place.

4 The Directing Committee is confident that through these actions the IHO can continue to publish the International Hydrographic Review, now in a digital format. However, this remains heavily dependent upon the IHO Member States providing suitable articles, which, in the past, has not always been the case. It follows that if the IHR is to continue to be published regularly, then suitable submissions must be forthcoming.

5 The Directing Committee invites Member States to provide any further comments, if they wish.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'G' followed by a smaller capital 'O' and a capital 'R'. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director