



IHB File No. S1/1900/A

**CIRCULAR LETTER 67/2008  
7 August 2008**

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY - THEME FOR 2009**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 This year the IHB celebrated World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008, providing material to media, giving interviews and by hosting a reception at which members of the Monaco Government and other officials, diplomatic authorities, representatives from the maritime industry, the local television and reporters and others were present. The President, in welcoming the guests, provided a brief statement on the importance of WHD. He drew attention to the Organization's interest and contribution to Capacity Building, as a vital tool to assist the IHO in achieving its mission and objectives, which was the theme of WHD 2008 as approved by Member States.

2 The Directing Committee has received various reports on how WHD was celebrated by different Member States, such as organizing exhibitions, seminars, receptions and special events. In addition, on 24<sup>th</sup> June, the IHO represented by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and with the participation of many representatives from Member States who are also members of the European Union and the President of the IHB, celebrated WHD at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) at its premises in Lisbon, Portugal. This event was also supported by the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute (IHPT). The event provided another excellent opportunity to inform relevant authorities, EMSA staff, the public and the media about the activities of national Hydrographic Offices and the IHO and underlined the importance of capacity building in accordance with the theme of the celebrations.

3 Protection of the marine environment is one of the major objectives of the IHO and its Member States' Hydrographic Offices. Hydrographic information, data, products and services are used by many different organizations, maritime industry, academia and others to study the marine environment and increasingly to study the effects and consequences of climate change. The Directing Committee therefore proposes the theme for the celebration of WHD 2009 to be "HYDROGRAPHY - PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT".

4 As in the past, the Directing Committee will investigate ways and opportunities to organize various events which will highlight the importance of Hydrography and WHD based on the agreed theme. The Bureau will, once again, arrange:

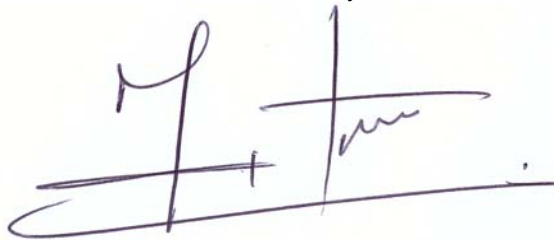
1. A special page on the IHO website, where papers and other material supporting the celebration will be posted for the benefit of Member States;
2. A Press Release for use in Monaco, which Member States may also use in support of their celebrations;

3. A Media Conference and interviews stressing the importance of the celebrations and the theme;

4. A reception for Monaco Government Officials, diplomatic representatives, local maritime industry and others.

5. Based on the experience gained in celebrating WHD 2008, the Directing Committee welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve the organization and support of this annual event. In addition, the Directing Committee would welcome comments on the proposed theme for WHD 2009 - "*Hydrography - Protecting the Marine Environment*".

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

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

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President