

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File No. P/0005

**CIRCULAR LETTER 99/2008
28 November 2008**

PRINCE ALBERT 1ST MEDAL FOR HYDROGRAPHY

Reference: - IHO 2008-2012 Work Programme

Dear Hydrographer,

1. *Task 4.2.7 - Publicity* in the 2008-2012 IHO Work Programme requests the IHB to establish a procedure for awarding the Prince Albert Ist Medal for Hydrography and to submit the proposed procedure to Member States for their approval.
2. The Medal was established in 1988 following discussions between the President of the Directing Committee and the Prince of Monaco. It was named the "Prince Albert Ist Medal for Hydrography" acknowledging that Prince Albert Ist was one of the great navigators and explorers of his time, and was to be awarded to the author of the best article published in the International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The Medal is always presented by the Prince himself during the Opening Ceremony of the ordinary International Hydrographic Conferences.
3. The procedure followed for the selection of the best article was in two steps: the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) selected the best articles published each year and then, prior to the Conference, the Member States were asked to vote for the best article amongst those selected by the RHCs in the previous years. The article with the highest number of votes was selected as the best article.
4. The details as to how the IHR will be published by the Bureau, as from 1st January 2009, have been reported in CL 65/2008. The articles will be posted on the IHO web site and, at the end of each year, a hard copy of all articles will be prepared by the Bureau and disseminated to Member States.
5. The Directing Committee has considered the comments made in the past by various Member States concerning the procedure followed for the selection of the best article and, in order to simplify it and make it more open to all authors, proposes the following procedure:
 - At the end of the year preceding an ordinary I.H. Conference, the Bureau will pass to Member States a list of all the articles that have been published in the previous years, which have been posted on the IHO web site and circulated in hard copy to Member States;
 - Each Member State will select three articles graded with 3 points for the first choice, 2 points for the second and 1 point for the third;
 - The Bureau will examine the responses and the article scoring the highest number of votes will be selected as the best article. The author of the best article will receive the Prince Albert Ist Medal.

6. With regard to the timing of events, the Directing Committee proposes a timetable in **Annex A**. It is felt that there should be no problem in receiving the Member States' reply in time for the IHB to assess the situation and to inform Member States and the Monaco Government of the result.

7. The Directing Committee invites the Member States to consider the proposed procedure and invites any comments to be forwarded to the IHB by **31 January 2009**. Based on the responses received, the Directing Committee will draft an Administrative Resolution that will be submitted to the Member States for their approval.

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

Annex A: Timetable for the selection of the winner of the "Prince Albert Ist Medal for Hydrography".

**TIMETABLE FOR SELECTION OF THE WINNER OF THE
"PRINCE ALBERT 1ST MEDAL FOR HYDROGRAPHY"**

No	Date	Activity
1	Y IHC MAY	First Edition of the year (Y1) is posted on the IHO website
2	Y IHC NOV	Second Edition of the year (Y1) is posted on the IHO website
6	Y IHC+1 MAY	First Edition of the year (Y2) is posted on the IHO website
7	Y IHC+1 NOV	Second Edition of the year (Y2) is posted on the IHO website
11	Y IHC+2 MAY	First Edition of the year (Y3) is posted on the IHO website
12	Y IHC+2 NOV	Second Edition of the year (Y3) is posted on the IHO website
16	Y IHC+3 MAY	First Edition of the year (Y4) is posted on the IHO website
17	Y IHC+3 NOV	Second Edition of the year (Y4) is posted on the IHO website
21	Y IHC+4 MAY	First Edition of the year (Y5) is posted on the IHO website
22	Y IHC+4 NOV	Second Edition of the year (Y5) is posted on the IHO website. IHB issues a CL providing the list of all articles published in the period, requesting MSs to propose three Articles that will be graded with 3 points for the first, 2 points for the second and 1 point for the third.
24	Y IHC JAN	End January deadline for reply.
27	Y IHC FEB	Early February the IHB informs MSs and the Monaco Government which article has been awarded the "Prince Albert Ist Medal for Hydrography"
28	Y IHC MAY/JUN	"Prince Albert Ist Medal for Hydrography" is presented to the winner at the opening of the IHC.

- Notes:
- a) Y IHC = year of the I.H. Conference
 - b) This table counts an ordinary IHC every 5 years. This will change when the amended IHO Convention enters into force
 - c) The cycle continues on a rolling basis.