



IHB File No. S1/1900/A

**CIRCULAR LETTER 50/2009
10 July 2009**

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY - THEME FOR 2010

Dear Hydrographer,

1 As you know this year's World Hydrography Day (WHD) was celebrated on 5th June, after the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC), taking advantage of the presence of many Heads and representatives of Hydrographic Offices in Monaco for the EIHC. A seminar was organized where the following four related papers, based on the theme for the 2009 celebrations "Hydrography - Protecting the Marine Environment", were presented. Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos, the President of the Directing Committee, opened the seminar by highlighting the role of the Organization and its Member States' HOs of national, regional and global efforts to protect the marine environment. The presentations were:

- "One Ocean - Global responsibility" by Dr Savi Narayanan, the Dominion Hydrographer of Canada;
- "IMO and IHO, co-operation towards protection of the marine environment", by Captain Gurpreet Singhota, Secretary of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation;
- "Hydrography - Contributing to better met-ocean products and services", by Captain Edgar Cabrera, Chief of the Ocean Affairs Division of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- "Establishing a regular process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the state of the marine environment", by Dr Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director of UNESCO.

2 The Directing Committee has received various reports on how WHD was celebrated by different Member States, such as organising exhibitions, seminars, receptions, visits of survey vessels and special events. These activities raise the awareness of the importance of hydrography at national, regional and global levels, in protecting the marine environment and at the same time indicate the value of establishing global standards.

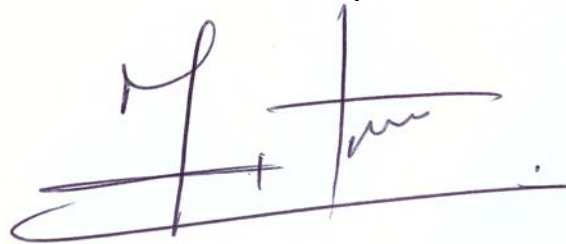
3 More than 90% of the global trade and 60% of the annual world oil consumption are transported by sea routes. Maritime trade is very important for the economies of the States. Development of States depends very much on the undisturbed, regular and efficient transportation of commodities especially by ships. Shipping has always provided the only really cost-effective method of bulk transport especially over any great distance. Ports and maritime coastal facilities are also important in maritime trade. National hydrographic services play a fundamental role in developing the conditions that enable maritime trade to take place. Hydrographic data and information, nautical charts and publications and the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information are vital services required to ensure the safe and efficient conduct of maritime trade. The Directing Committee therefore proposes the theme "Hydrographic Services - the essential element for maritime trade", for the celebration of WHD 2010 .

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 arrange:

- A special page on the IHO web site, where papers and other material supporting the celebration will be posted for the benefit of Member States;
- A media release for use in Monaco, which Member States may also use in support of their celebrations;
- A media conference and interviews stressing the importance of the celebrations and the theme;
- Visits of schools where the importance of hydrography and the theme of the celebration will be presented;
- A reception for government officials of Monaco, diplomatic representatives, local maritime industry and others.

5 The Directing Committee would welcome comments on the proposed theme for WHD 2010 "Hydrographic Services - the essential element for maritime trade" and the overall procedures and activities for the celebration.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, with a smaller signature to the right.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President