

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File N° S1/3000

**CIRCULAR LETTER 66/2009
30 September 2009**

**HOST MEMBERS' STATES ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING
ENTRY VISAS FOR IHO DELEGATIONS**

Reference: CL 04/2008 dated 04 January

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee is aware that representatives of some Member States continue to face difficulties in obtaining entry visas from host countries, in order to attend meetings or technical seminars of the Organization. This is having negative effects for the Organization and its Member States.

2 Member States are restricted from participating and contributing to important meetings and technical events with obvious consequences for the IHO Programme and in particular for the benefit of individual States through the IHO Capacity Building Programme. Of increasing concern is that due to the increasing number of late refusal of visas both the Organization and individual Member States are losing money, when funds expended on prepaid travel or accommodation cannot be recovered.

3 The Directing Committee urges Member States that are sponsoring IHO meetings to review the reference dealing with this issue to ensure that whenever they organize meetings and seminars, they provide overseas delegates with all the support required to obtain the necessary visas.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President