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CIRCULAR LETTER 69/2012  
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### WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY (WHD) 2012 AND THEME FOR WHD 2013

Reference: CL 13/2012 dated 03 February 2012

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The theme for WHD 2012 was "*International Hydrographic Cooperation – supporting safe navigation*". The IHB celebrated WHD in Monaco on Friday 22 June, so as not to clash with other celebrations that were taking place in Monaco the previous day. The Bureau prepared a media release that was distributed to the local Press. This media release and various displays that were prepared were posted on the IHO web site for use by Member States as they considered appropriate.

2 The Bureau hosted a reception at the Monaco Yacht Club where various posters were displayed illustrating hydrographic activities with special emphasis on the theme of this year's celebration. HSH Prince Albert II was unable to be present. He was represented by Mr Jacques BOISSON, Secretary of State. The Prime Minister of Monaco, His Excellency Michel ROGER, was also present. Ministers, diplomatic authorities, representatives from the maritime industry and other local officials attended. The President on behalf of the Directing Committee, welcomed the guests, and delivered a brief speech on the significance of WHD highlighting the importance of international hydrographic cooperation in addressing issues affecting safety at sea, the protection of the marine environment and capacity building, especially in developing States. The guests showed interest in the posters seeking more information for hydrography and how it affects maritime developments.

3 The Directing Committee has since received various reports on how WHD was celebrated by various Member States. This information has been posted on the IHO web site.

4 Hydrography is a fundamental enabler in relation to most maritime activities and increasingly in relation to economic benefits for coastal States through the proper and sustainable exploitation of the sea and its environment. Minerals exploitation, energy extraction, fishing, recreational boating, maritime trade, coastal zone management, seaborne tourism, are all some examples of activities where hydrographic knowledge, data, information and products play an important planning and management role and thereby contribute to the release of economic benefits for coastal States.

5 The Directing Committee, recognizing the economic importance of hydrography to activities of coastal States in addition to safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment,, proposes that

the theme for the celebrations of WHD 2013 be: *“Hydrography – underpinning the blue economy”*. This theme is intended to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and usefulness of hydrography to issues other than safety and to highlight the economic benefits that all coastal States can deliver through supporting hydrographic services.

6. The Directing Committee welcomes any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact of the annual WHD celebrations. The Directing Committee would also welcome comments on the proposed theme for WHD 2013.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President