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CIRCULAR LETTER 88/2012
8 October 2012

**SECOND HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT,
DOHA, QATAR, 4-6 February 2013**

Reference: IHB CL 82/2012 dated 22 August - *Report on the Second Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in IHB CL 82/2012, the **Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management** will be held in Doha, Qatar on 4-6 February 2013, hosted by the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in collaboration with the Government of Qatar. We are now able to provide you with some more detailed information on this Forum.
2. The Forum is being staged in support of the mandate from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to convene global forums that promote discussion on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The event will continue the discussions and consultations from the First High Level Forum held in 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and follow up on issues from the second session of the UN-GGIM held in August 2012 in New York and reported in the Reference. The Forum will also address other current critical matters such as capacity building and interdisciplinary cooperation, data sharing and integration frameworks, and the management of new and expanding sources of data to support sustainable development. This Forum therefore provides Member States and stakeholders from the geospatial information community with the unique opportunity to share and learn from each other to support local, regional and global sustainable development initiatives.
3. The program for the Forum begins on Sunday, 3 February 2013 with an "Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry". The main Forum begins on Monday, 4 February 2013, with an opening ceremony and ministerial segment, followed by various technical sessions on a range of topics. Additional information on the High Level Forum and related events will be posted at the UN-GGIM website at: <http://ggim.un.org/>.
4. As was the case for the first Forum, the IHO President will represent the Organization as an observer. At the same time, Member States are encouraged to also consider attending the Forum. Alternatively, you may wish to provide any relevant input and observations to the Directing Committee prior to the event so that the President may present your views if the opportunity arises.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD
President