



IHB File N° S1/5014

CIRCULAR LETTER 08 /2013
22 January 2013

**PROPOSED AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION AND
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. The IHO has a long and successful history of cooperation with IMO for both technical matters and capacity building activities and is formally recognised by the IMO as its competent authority with regard to hydrography, nautical charting services and associated matters.
2. While the history of cooperation between the two organisations is long and successful, there is no current formal recognition of this successful and continuing partnership. Following recent discussions between the Secretary-General of IMO and the Directing Committee, a proposed text of an Agreement of Cooperation between the IHO and the IMO has been drawn up. The format of the Agreement is based on similar Agreements enacted between the IMO and its other inter-governmental and international partner organisations. The proposed text is shown at Annex A.
3. Subject to any comments received from IHO Member States and the subsequent agreement of the IMO, the President of the Directing Committee will sign the Agreement on behalf of the IHO towards the end of 2013.
4. You are kindly requested to review this proposed text at Annex A and to provide your comments, if any, to the IHB **by 31 March 2013**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert WARD
President

Annex A: Draft text of an Agreement of Cooperation between the IHO and the IMO

**DRAFT TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE IHO AND THE IMO**

**AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) AND
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)**

WHEREAS Assembly resolution A.64(III) of 25 October 1963 on Relations with intergovernmental organizations – International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), formalized the relations between the International Maritime Organization (hereinafter referred to as "IMO") and IHB,

WHEREAS, as noted, by the IMO Council, at its eighty-second session (June 1999), and the IMO Assembly, at its twenty-first regular session (November 1999) that, as from 22 September 1970, IHB became known as the International Hydrographic Organization (hereinafter referred to as "IHO"),

WHEREAS IMO and IHO now wish to restate in a comprehensive written agreement their long-standing relationship and co-operation in the field of hydrography and related aspects within the scope of their respective competences and areas of activity, as provided for in their respective conventions, as well as provide a clear framework for future co-operation, and

NOTING that, when the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on IHO comes into force, the position of President of the Directing Committee of IHB will be replaced by that of Secretary-General of IHO,

IMO AND IHO AGREE TO CONTINUE CO-OPERATING AS FOLLOWS:

1 IMO and IHO will consult each other on matters of common interest to both with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of the work and activities of their respective Organizations in respect of such matters.

2 Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for safeguarding confidential information, the Secretary-General of IMO and the President of the Directing Committee of IHB (hereinafter referred to as "the President of the IHB Directing Committee") will exchange information and keep each other informed of projected activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either entity proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a subject in which the other has or may have a substantial interest, consultation will be initiated between the two with a view to harmonizing their efforts as far as possible, taking into account their respective responsibilities and any decisions or wishes of the appropriate governing bodies of the respective entities.

3 The Secretary-General of IMO will invite the President of the IHB Directing Committee to send representatives to observe meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of IMO to consider matters in which IHO has an interest, in accordance with procedures applicable to each meeting or conference. Conversely, the President of the IHB Directing Committee will invite the Secretary-General of IMO to send observers to meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of IHO to consider matters in which IMO has an interest, in accordance with the procedures applicable to each meeting or conference.

4 The Secretary-General of IMO and the President of the IHB Directing Committee may consult on matters of personnel, material, services, equipment, capacity building and facilities for joint undertakings which may be agreed between them in fields of common interest to IMO and IHO.

5 IMO will, at the request of IHO, render assistance to IHO with respect to matters within the scope of activities of IHO; and IHO will, at the request of IMO, render assistance to IMO in matters falling within the scope of IMO's activities. Where assistance which is required by either party under the terms of this Agreement involves substantial expenditure, consultations will take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner for meeting such expenditure.

6 It is further agreed that nothing in this Agreement shall bind any of the Member States of IHO jointly or severally. Similarly, the Agreement shall not bind any of the Member States of IMO jointly or severally.

7 This Agreement shall be subject to revision by agreement between the Secretary-General of IMO and the President of the IHB Directing Committee.

8 The Secretary-General of IMO and the President of the IHB Directing Committee may terminate this Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other party.

9 This Agreement shall come into force on its approval by the Assembly of IMO and the Member States of IHO, whichever is the later.

Agreed for IHO by:

Agreed for IMO by:

Robert Ward
President of the IHB Directing Committee

Koji Sekimizu
Secretary-General

Date:

Date: