



IHB File N° S3/2620

**CIRCULAR LETTER 53/2013
18 September 2013**

**PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
AND THE NIPPON FOUNDATION**

References:

- A. CL 10/2004 dated 6 February - *Nippon Foundation - GEBCO Training Project*
- B. CL 77/2008 dated 2 October - *Japan Capacity Building Project and Secondment of Personnel*
- C. CL 10/2009 dated 13 February - *Japan Capacity Building Project - 1st Course in Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography - UKHO, Taunton, UK, 7 September - 18 December 2009*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Nippon Foundation (NF) is a well-known non-profit philanthropic organization established in 1962, based in Japan, and active in humanitarian and developmental projects around the world. The range of support provided by the NF initially focused on global maritime and shipping activities but later expanded to cover other activities, such as education, social welfare and public health in more than 100 countries. Despite broadening its range of activities, the NF has continued its relationship with the maritime field and works to address ocean-related problems, particularly with an emphasis on global human resource capacity building.

2. The NF has generously supported two significant IHO capacity building activities for some time. The NF-GEBCO Fellowship Programme (Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry at the University of New Hampshire, USA) was established in 2004 (see Reference A). This programme covers ocean mapping techniques and directly supports the IHO-IOC GEBCO programme through the training and on-going professional development of its alumni. The Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography Programme was established in 2009 (see References B and C). This programme enables students to qualify as nautical cartographers according to the IHO-FIG-ICA International Standards of Competence and is providing valuable improvements in human capacity, especially in developing States and thereby improving nautical charting on a global scale.

3. Following the most recent discussions between the Directing Committee and the Executive Director of the NF, it is proposed that the very positive achievements made so far be recognised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IHO and the NF. The MoU will provide the overarching framework for the continuation of discussion and consultation between the IHO and the NF in relation to enhancing human relations, capacity building, and awareness of the need to survey and map the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters and other matters of mutual interest between the IHO and NF. The text of the proposed MoU, which purposely does not include details of the processes and other obligations that are, in all cases, covered in the documentation of individual projects, is shown in Annex A.

4. The Directing Committee considers that the proposed MoU will signify a further strengthening of the very successful relationship between the Nippon Foundation and the IHO. Subject to any comments received from IHO Member States, the President of the Directing Committee will sign the Memorandum on behalf of the IHO towards the end of November 2013.

5. IHO Member States are kindly requested to review the proposed text at Annex A and to provide their comments, if any, to the IHB by **13 November 2013**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
President

Annex A: Draft text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and the NF (*in English only*)

**DRAFT TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE IHO AND THE NF**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
AND
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION**

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Nippon Foundation (NF), recognising the benefit to establish a cooperative framework agreed this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for continuing discussion and consultation between the IHO and the NF to consider projects between the NF and the IHO in their specific areas of common interest including enhancing human relations, capacity building, and awareness of the need to survey and map the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters for the mutual benefit of mankind and the preservation of the planet.

Scope of Activity

The IHO and the NF shall coordinate their activities as far as possible. The activities to be coordinated may be mutually agreed from time to time.

Legal Status

This MoU does not create any legal obligations or rights between the NF and the IHO or vice versa. This MoU shall be without prejudice to other agreements or arrangements which may exist between the NF and the IHO.

Validity

This MoU is valid until either of the NF or the IHO proposes its termination in writing to the other party. Each of the NF or the IHO has the right to propose changes to this MoU at any time in writing. Any change comes into effect upon the written consent of both the NF and the IHO.

For the Nippon Foundation

For the International Hydrographic Organization

Yohei SASAKAWA

Robert WARD

Chairman of the Nippon Foundation
ddMMM 2013

President of the Directing Committee, IHO
dd MMM 2013