



IHB File No. S1/5062

CIRCULAR LETTER 26/2014
10 March 2014

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE EVALUATION TEAM
OF THE FIRST PHASE OF GEOSS**

Reference: IHO CL 06/2006 dated 18 January - *Intention of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to become a participating organization of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. GEO, the “Group on Earth Observations”, is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations which is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The objective of GEOSS is to exploit the potential of Earth observations to support decision-making in an increasingly complex and environmentally stressed world.
2. GEO’s Members include 90 Governments and the European Commission. In addition, 77 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues have been recognized as Participating Organizations. The IHO was recognized as a Participating Organization in 2006 as announced in the reference.
3. GEO has been constructing GEOSS on the basis of an initial ten-year Implementation Plan for the period 2005-2015. According to the GEO governance framework, a final evaluation of the first phase of GEOSS implementation will be made to assess the progress against the targets of the Implementation Plan. The evaluation is expected to take place from May 2014 to May 2015.
4. The GEO Secretariat is now inviting GEO Members and Participating Organizations to nominate members for the Evaluation Team which will be set up to conduct the evaluation. The relevant conditions and arrangements are provided in the enclosure.
5. Member States that are interested in nominating an expert are invited to liaise with their national GEO Principal if applicable. Non GEO Member States may propose the name of an expert through the IHB, subject to the requirement that the sponsoring State commits to supporting the participation and travel of their nominee. A curriculum vitae outlining the credentials and experience of the nominee should be provided in support of any proposed candidature.
6. Nominations, if any, should reach the IHB no later than **22 April 2014**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilles BESSERO', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Our Ref: 2014-48/GEO/M&E

GEO Principals

Geneva, 5 March 2014

Subject: Nomination of the Evaluation Team

Dear GEO Principal,

In accordance with the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework Document and the approach to evaluation endorsed by the GEO-VI Plenary, the M&E Working Group is preparing to launch a final evaluation of the first phase of GEOSS implementation. This summary evaluation will complete the planned series of evaluations during the initial period of GEOSS implementation, and will assess the progress toward achieving all Strategic Targets across all Tasks. The evaluation is expected to begin in May 2014 and will conclude in May 2015.

As in previous GEO evaluations, a new Evaluation Team will be assembled to conduct the evaluation. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to nominate members for the Evaluation Team. While it is useful to have members on the Evaluation Team who bring a variety of expertise and skills, based on lessons learned from prior evaluations, individuals with the following characteristics are particularly desirable:

- Direct or indirect users of Earth observation systems and information;
- Subject matter experts in areas that cross multiple Strategic Targets;
- Professional evaluators or others with experience in conducting program evaluations, including prior GEO evaluations; and/or
- Working in under-represented regions, including Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.

To ensure objectivity of the evaluation, nominees to the Evaluation Team should not be current GEO Task Coordinators, Task Component Co-leads, or Board Co-Chairs.

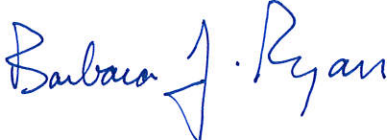
GEO Members and Participating Organizations nominating members to the Evaluation Team are expected to support their nominee's active participation (typically 25% of their time during the evaluation period), as well as cover travel expenses for four evaluation-related trips. The first meeting will take place in Washington, D.C., USA during the last week of May 2014. The nominating GEO Principals are requested to make firm commitments to support the participation and travel of their nominees.

Your contribution will be essential to ensuring formation of the highest quality Evaluation Team, and the highest quality summary evaluation.

Nominations are requested to reach the GEO Secretariat before **30 April 2014**.

We thank you very much for your continued support of GEOSS implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara J. Ryan
Secretariat Director