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## WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY – PROPOSED THEME FOR 2015

### References:

- A. IHO CL 02/2014 dated 07 January - *Theme for World Hydrography Day 2014*
- B. IHO CL 25/2014 dated 06 March - *Background Briefing Note for World Hydrography Day 2014*
- C. XVIII<sup>th</sup> IHC Proposal 6 and Decision 17 on the global status of hydrographic surveying

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of this year's World Hydrography Day (WHD) was "*Hydrography - much more than just nautical charts*" highlighting the significant value of hydrography to all human activities that take place in, on or under the sea. A number of WHD events have been held during the year using the information in Reference B.

2. The Bureau hosted a reception on the IHB terrace where various posters were on display illustrating hydrographic activities, with special emphasis on this year's WHD theme. Local dignitaries, government and diplomatic representatives, and other invited guests attended the reception and were honoured by the presence of His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco.

3. The French Navy survey vessel *La Pérouse* was berthed in Monaco's main harbour, Port Hercule, and was open to visitors during the WHD celebration. The Hydrographer of France, Ingénieur général Bruno Frachon, also attended the celebration. The IHB was hosting a meeting of the IHO-IOC Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), which enabled the outgoing Hydrographer of Japan, Mr Shin Tani, and the Deputy Hydrographer-General of Canada, Dr Kian Fadiae, to be present, together with the other members and observers of the Sub-Committee.

4. The following IHO Member States have reported hosting events in connection with WHD: Brazil, Chile, Japan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Poland, Spain and USA. The IHO Bulletin report on WHD celebrations is available at:

[http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/WHD/2014/2014WHD.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/WHD/2014/2014WHD.pdf)

### Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2015

5. Taking into account the discussions at the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference, the Decision concerning the global status of hydrographic surveying (see Reference C) and the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed, the Directing Committee suggests highlighting this situation by adopting the theme - "*Our seas and oceans - still to be explored and charted*" for the WHD 2015. This theme would help raise awareness and attract support for improving the current absence of authoritative depth data in many places in the world. The proposed theme will coincide with the announcement of the ten-year vision of the IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) Project which seeks to provide the world's global, most authoritative publicly available bathymetric dataset for all those who need to understand the depth and the shape of the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters. It will also help promote and

encourage innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives including crowd-sourcing and satellite-derived bathymetry.

6. The Directing Committee invites Member States to consider the proposed theme for WHD 2015 “*Our seas and oceans – still to be explored and charted*” - and to provide their comments, if any, to the IHB **no later than 12 December 2014**. The Directing Committee would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

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