

## Visit to the 16<sup>th</sup> course of the IHO-Nippon Foundation GEOMAC project UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton, UK 23 October 2024

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024

Task 3.3.9.2

Maintain relations with Nippon Foundation for the management of GEOMAC (Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography) program at the UKHO.

#### High level summary

- A delegation of the IHO Secretariat visited the UKHO to meet and deliver presentations to the trainees of the 16<sup>th</sup> GEOMAC course, which is recognised as a Category “B” programme in nautical cartography. The importance of hydrography, capacity building and alumni networking were emphasized, and the trainees were encouraged to take the lead in marine cartography in their countries and globally.
- The current situation and future plans of the GEOMAC programme were discussed between the IHO team and the UKHO training staff to be presented to the Nippon Foundation in view of the submission of the next 3-year GEOMAC programme (2026-2028).
- The trainees from various countries expressed their deep appreciation to the Nippon Foundation, UKHO and IHO, and discussed with the IHO visiting team the new developments on the Universal Hydrographic Data Model S-100 and the potential improvements to the GEOMAC programme.

#### Details:

IHO Director Luigi Sinapi, Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas and Project Officer from Japan Masanao Sumiyoshi visited the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) on 23 October 2024 to have a meeting with the UKHO staff and meet and deliver presentations to the seven trainees of the 16<sup>th</sup> course of the IHO - Nippon Foundation GEOMAC (Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography) project to enrich their knowledge of the IHO and on the project.



*The trainees and trainers of the 16<sup>th</sup> GEOMAC course with the IHO visiting team.*

The GEOMAC project, funded by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, provides training in nautical cartography and data assessment that is recognised by the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) as Category "B" programme on nautical cartography. The programme is delivered by the UKHO and consists of eight modules and a final project, each module lasts between one and three weeks. The 16<sup>th</sup> course is

taking place from 15 July to 13 December 2024 and is attended by ten trainees, seven supported by the project from IHO Member States, namely Bangladesh, Cuba, Fiji, Lebanon, Philippines, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

During the meeting with UKHO training staff, the status and issues of the current 16<sup>th</sup> GEOMAC course were considered along with the plans for the 17<sup>th</sup> GEOMAC course next year, including the timing of the call for the applications and the duration of the training course. The future challenges of the GEOMAC Programme were discussed with the need to renovate the project with Nippon Foundation in 2026 and also the UKHO to renovate the recognition of the programme in 2027.

The presentations delivered by the IHO team covered various topics related to hydrography. Director Sinapi highlighted the importance of hydrography, the role of IHO and the recent challenges faced. Assistant Director Manteigas underlined the objectives, activities and partnerships of the IHO Capacity Building and the impact of the GEOMAC programme on the Capacity Building Programme. Project Officer from Japan Sumiyoshi described the JCBP/CHART/GEOMAC project history and the evolution over 15 years, the importance of the alumni network and the expectations related with the remaining training and post-training activities of the trainees.

In response, the trainees sincerely thanked the Nippon Foundation, UKHO and IHO for the opportunity to develop their knowledge and expertise in the field of nautical cartography and other relevant fields and discussed with the IHO visiting team the next generation of nautical chart and information products (such as those based on the S-100 data model) and possible improvements to the training programme.

The trainees were encouraged to contribute significantly to the nautical cartography in their countries, regions and globally, and to strengthen the IHO-Nippon Foundation alumni network, after returning to their home countries. At the end of this training course, the number of graduates will exceed 100, further strengthening the global community of nautical cartographers.

#### Photo:



*Presentations by the IHO visiting team.*

#### Upcoming meetings:

The visit to 17<sup>th</sup> GEOMAC course is planned for 2025 at the UKHO headquarters.