

Visit to the 17th course of the IHO-Nippon Foundation GEOMAC project UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton, UK 27 November 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.3.9.2

Maintain relations with Nippon Foundation for the management of GEOMAC program at the UKHO.

High level summary

- The IHO delegation visited the UKHO to meet with training staff and deliver presentations to the trainees on the 17th GEOMAC course, recognised as a Category “B” programme for nautical cartographers.
- The following topics were discussed with UKHO staff: the 17th GEOMAC course; the grant application for the next project cycle; the expected basic plans for the 18th course; and other IHO capacity building initiatives.
- The IHO delegation gave presentations on global hydrography, capacity-building initiatives and the project’s 17-year history, as well as the expected global contributions of the alumni.
- By the end of this training course, the alumni network will have grown to 112 members, who are expected to play an important role on the S-100 transition.

Details:

IHO Director Luigi SINAPI, Assistant Director Leonel MANTEIGAS and Project Officer of Japan Masanao SUMIYOSHI visited the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) on 27 November 2025 to hold a meeting with the UKHO training staff and deliver presentations to trainees on the 17th course of the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) project, enhancing their knowledge of the IHO’s various roles and the background to the project.



The trainees and trainers of the 17th GEOMAC course with the IHO visiting team.

The GEOMAC project and its predecessors, funded by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, have been providing training courses for nautical cartographers for 17 years. These courses, delivered by the

UKHO, have been recognised by the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) as a Category "B" programme. The current programme consists of eight modules, each lasting between one and four weeks, as well as a final project, all of which are essential for current and future nautical cartography. The 17th course runs from 14 July to 12 December 2025, with nine trainees attending, including six trainees funded by the GEOMAC project from Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nigeria and Philippines.

During the meeting with the UKHO training staff, updates were provided on the training status of the 17th GEOMAC course, as well as on the grant application status for the next GEOMAC project cycle starting next year. The expected basic plans for the 18th GEOMAC course were discussed, including the timing of the call for applications. Other initiatives related to the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme were also discussed.

The IHO visiting team delivered presentations providing an overview of international activities in hydrography. Director SINAPI emphasised the importance of hydrography and the significance of the IHO's roles, as well as the recent challenges faced. Assistant Director MANTEIGAS emphasised the objectives, activities and partnerships of the IHO capacity building initiatives, as well as the significant impact of the GEOMAC project on the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme. Project Officer of Japan SUMIYOSHI described the history and evolution of the JCBP/CHART/GEOMAC project over the last 17 years, as well as the importance of the alumni network and their expected contributions at the international, regional, and national levels.

The trainees expressed their sincere thanks to the Nippon Foundation, the IHO and the UKHO for providing them with this valuable opportunity to develop their knowledge and expertise in nautical cartography.

By the end of this training course, the number of alumni will reach 112. This global community of nautical cartographers is expected to play an active role in ensuring a successful transition to the S-100 data model.

Photo:



Presentations by the IHO visiting team.

Upcoming meetings:

The next 18th GEOMAC course visit is expected to be held at the UKHO headquarters in 2026.