

## **Keynote Speech by Mitsuyuki UNNO (Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation)**

Good morning everyone.

I'm happy to be here with you all today at the third Alumni Seminar for the IHO-Nippon Foundation CHART and GEOMAC Project.

Since the program's inception in 2009, 92 fellows from 49 countries have successfully completed the program, with over half of you joining us today.

After completing the project, many of you have been working hard to improve charting in your countries.

Recent data shows that alumni countries have significantly helped improve the charting coverage, increasing it by 20 points, while non-alumni countries have lagged behind with just a 5-point increase.

I see this as evidence of the positive impact the project has had on advancing the charting efforts worldwide.

This seminar aims to strengthen your skills, networks, and foster new collaboration. You share a unique bond through this program.

So I ask that you use this network to initiate collaboration and find solutions to the challenges our ocean faces today.

And at the next alumni seminar, I look forward to hearing about the remarkable contributions you've made, not just to your country but to the world.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the IHO and especially to Mr. Luigi SINAPI for your dedicated efforts in running this project, and to the UKHO for providing exceptional training to the CHART and GEOMAC Project fellows.

Thank you.