

ALUMNI WORKSHOP WELCOME SPEECH BY IHO DIRECTOR IPTES

Dear Mr Unno, Dear Admiral BOONMOH, Distinguished Guests, Dear Alumni, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very Good Morning, Ohayo Gozaimas and Savadikap,

It is a great honour for me, on behalf of the International Hydrographic Organization, to address you on the occasion of the IHO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Workshop which will take place from 2 to 4 November 2016, here in Bangkok, Thailand.

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to attend this AW, in particular to our Keynote Speakers Mr Unno and Admiral Boonmoh. It is indeed a matter of unique opportunity and honour for me to see you all here.

I thank our alumni and friends from around the world, who have made their effort to travel all the way to the beautiful city Bangkok. Your presence makes this event very meaningful to us. I also thank to organizers of this AW (namely to the IHO CB Team) for their great efforts in the last couple of months. And also, we are a grateful to TRNHD for their kind assistance to this workshop.

As you know, The CHART (Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training) Project, funded by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, provides training in marine cartography and data assessment which is recognized at the Category B level by the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers. The course is hosted by the UKHO and composed of five modules, each module varying from two to five weeks in length. The 8th course started on 5 September 2016 and will end on 16 December. It is attended by students from Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Georgia, Latvia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Japan.

To date, the IHO-NF CHART project and its forerunner, the Japan Capacity Building Project, have trained 44 students, almost all of whom are now working in chart production, thereby contributing to achieving the IHO's role and objectives. We expect that the current students that attend the present course at the UKHO will also follow the same path.

IHO gives great importance to the training activities all around the world. As IHO, we need highly trained, highly skilled cartographers for global maritime community. We recognize that CHART Project is one of the great examples of cooperation and internationally well recognized in cartographic training domain.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of everyone here, and on behalf of the IHO Member states, I would like to thank the Nippon Foundation for their continuing and very generous support to the IHO CB programme. We believe that this great support will continue considering that this course has achieved a great success for the last 7 years. I also thank the UKHO that provides excellent, world class course and host nation support to the students.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Alumni, this AW offers the opportunity to keep in touch with each other and to maintain an alumni relationship and network after you return to your home countries. I encourage all of you to participate actively to the discussions, provide us with your feedbacks and share your experience in order to review and improve the effectiveness of this great course. I wish you a very successful Workshop.

Thank you.