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HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)

IHB File No. S3/0128

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HCA Letter No. 02/2016

IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

New location: 14th Conference, Tromsø, Norway, 28 - 30 June 2016

To: [HCA Members, Observers](#) and Invited Expert Contributors

References:

- A. HCA Letter No 1/2016 - *14th Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 28-30 June 2016.*
- B. [IHO CL 27/2014 dated 13 March](#) *IHO HCA, 13th Conference, Cádiz, Spain, 3 5 December 2013.*

New Location for HCA-14

1. The 14th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-14) will now be held in Tromsø, Norway from 28 to 30 June 2016, hosted by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service on behalf of Norway. This Conference was previously scheduled to take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador, as announced in Reference A, but this is no longer possible because of the recent disastrous earthquakes in that country.

Agenda

2. Taking into account the revised location of the Conference and the input received in response to Reference B, a revised agenda and timetable is now under preparation and will be posted on the IHO website www.iho.int > Committees and WGS > HCA > HCA-14 as soon as possible.

National Reports to HCA-14

3. HCA Members are reminded that they should provide the HCA Secretary with their national reports at least one month in advance of HCA conferences. This means that national reports should reach the IHB **not later than 28 May 2016.**

4. **Format and content for national reports.** As an experiment, and in order to encourage an efficient meeting and at the same time reduce the preparation workload for participants, no written national reports are required this year. Instead, all Member States (whether attending the meeting or not) are invited to provide their national reports as Microsoft PowerPoint presentations using the template which is available as Doc. HCA14-

07.2A Rev1 on the IHO website www.iho.int > Committees and WGS > HCA > HCA-14. The template is intended to cover all the key points that should be of mutual interest to all participants at the Conference.

5. National representatives are furthermore requested to ensure that they are appropriately briefed on all relevant aspects of their Antarctic programmes in order to contribute actively to the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group that will meet and provide recommendations as part of the Conference.

Venue and Accommodation

6. The Conference will take place in Tromsø, Norway, in two venues: at the Fram Centre on Tuesday 28 June, and in the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June. Please note that a reception is also planned at the Polaria on Monday 27 June at 19:00. General and logistics information including transportation and recommended hotels are given in Annex A. Attendees should note that mid-summer is a very popular time of the year for visitors to Tromsø. Attendees are therefore strongly recommended to book their chosen accommodation for the first night, as soon as possible.

Registration

7. Those who have not recently confirmed their participation in HCA-14 in Tromsø by email to the HCA Secretary (adcs@iho.int), are requested to do so as soon as possible. The list of confirmed participants is maintained in the HCA section of the IHO website.

8. Any changes to registration details should be forwarded to the HCA Secretary at the earliest opportunity. The Secretary will then keep the NHS informed of the anticipated number of participants.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
President, IHB
Chair, HCA

General and Logistic Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

The first day of the HCA meeting take place at the Fram Centre, see chart at [City center](#)

After end of day 1 you will be transported to Sommarøy Arctic Hotel, approximately 1 hour drive from Tromsø, see chart at [Sommarøy](#). We will stay at this place until the end of the meeting on 30 June. Transport to the airport and Tromsø city center immediately after lunch on 30 June. We will be at the airport no later than 15:00h.

On Monday night at 19:00h you are invited to a reception at Polaria (www.polaria.no). The dress code is smart casual.

The walking distance from Radisson hotel to Polaria and the Fram Centre is 10-15 minutes.

HOTEL INFORMATION

In Tromsø a block reservation of rooms at Radisson Blu Hotel is available until 13 June. The block reservation is done for arrival on Sunday 26 or Monday 27 June and Thursday 30 June (in case your return flight is the day after the end of the meeting). The negotiated price for a single room in NOK 1055 (appr. USD 125-130), breakfast included. Please make your reservation directly with the hotel on [Radisson Blu Hotel](#). Notice if you need to reserve room both before and after the meeting, you have to enter the link twice.

Several others hotels are available in the city center. The best price you probably get at the Thons hotel ([Thons hotels](#)) but we have no block reservation. The Thons hotel are just 3-4 minutes' walk from the Radisson Blu.

For the stay at Sommarøy Arctic Hotel ([hotel](#)) the reservations are done by the organizer. Payment to be done by each participant on departure. The daily rate is NOK 1090, breakfast included. Sommarøy is a small island on the outermost coast with an unformal atmosphere. We suggest the dress code to be adjusted accordingly.

TRANSPORTATION

Tromsø airport Langenes (TOS) has totally 13 daily direct connections to Oslo airport Gardermoen (OSL), operated by the airlines Scandinavian (SAS) <http://www.sas.no/> and Norwegian <http://www.norwegian.no/>. The fly time is 1h 45m.

The airport shuttle departs every 20 minutes, fare NOK 90 (NOK 140 if you buy the return ticket at the same time). The travel time is appr.15 minutes. The bus stop close to Radisson Blu hotel and Thons hotels.

A taxi service is available from the airport. Fare appr. NOK 200-300, depending on time of the day.

The most common credit cards are accepted at all hotels, taxis and airport shuttle.

Any question about the logistic arrangements to be addressed to mr. Noralf Slotsvik (noralf.slotsvik@kartverket.no) phone +47 41556604 or Ms. Bente Skarstad (bente.skarstad@kartverket.no), phone +47 91140062