

IHO Files No. S3/4505 & S1/3022

CIRCULAR LETTER 20/2020
28 May 2020

**IHO - NIPPON FOUNDATION GEOMAC PROJECT –
Successful Nomination of Candidates for the 12th Course**

Reference A: IHO CL 09/2020 Rev 1 dated 07 February-*Call for Applications to the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) Project, UKHO, Taunton, UK 1 September to 18 December 2020*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited IHO Member States to nominate candidates who would benefit from the opportunity offered by the IHO - Nippon Foundation GEOMAC (Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography) Project that provides training in Marine Cartography and Data Assessment and is funded by the Nippon Foundation (NF). The course is recognized at the Category "B" level by the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC).
2. The IHO Secretariat received 24 applications from 24 IHO Members States.
3. The selection panel, comprising of representatives from the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the IHO Secretariat, held a video meeting on 7 May 2020 and examined all the applications received.
4. Candidates from:
 - **Argentina (Mr. Gastón ECHENIQUE),**
 - **Cuba (Mrs. Nayivis LÓPEZ ORTEGA),**
 - **Dominican Republic (Mr. Ismael JORGE PEÑA),**
 - **Guyana (Ms. Rolesia SINGH),**
 - **Indonesia (Mr. Dady SURYANEGARA),**
 - **Malta (Mr. Allan Wells ELLUL), and**
 - **Romania (Ms. Maria-Cornelia URDEA)**

were selected for the course that will be conducted at the UKHO in Taunton, United Kingdom. The provisional dates of the course are 1 September to 18 December 2020 subject to acceptable level of safe circumstance regarding COVID-19 impact. Individual notification letters will be distributed by the IHO Secretariat with the instructions to be followed by the selected applicants.

5. The IHO Secretariat reminds the selected students and their national Hydrographic Offices that the GEOMAC course will normally start in September 2020, as scheduled, under the condition of an acceptable level of safe circumstance with regards to global and local (in the United Kingdom) COVID-19 impact. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the COVID-19 circumstance in close coordination with the UKHO and will inform the selected students and their national Hydrographic Offices at the beginning of July 2020 if there is a postponement or not.

6. In the case of postponement of the GEOMAC course, it will be rescheduled to possibly start in January or February in 2021. Therefore, the selected students should wait for further instruction and confirmation of the course dates before commencing any preparation.

7. The selections listed in paragraph 4 are for the nominated personnel only. National authorities cannot substitute the selected candidates with any other personnel, even if the GEOMAC course is postponed to January or February 2021.

8. The IHO Secretariat congratulates those candidates that have been selected. The IHO Secretariat advises those organizations whose applicants have not been selected this time to apply again when the next call for nominations is announced by IHO Circular Letter.

9. Finally, the IHO Secretariat would like to thank the JHOD, UKHO, and particularly the Nippon Foundation, for the successful results obtained so far. To date, the IHO-NF GEOMAC project and its forerunners, the Japan Capacity Building Project and CHART project, have educated 71 nautical cartographers, almost all of whom are now working in chart production, thereby contributing directly to achieving the IHO's role and objectives.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director