

IHO File No S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 16/2021
20 April 2021

**CELEBRATIONS OF THE IHO CENTENARY
ON WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 21 JUNE 2021**

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2021 dated 8 January - *Theme for WHD 2021 and Media Outreach*
- B. 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly 16 - 18 November 2020 - Report of Proceedings

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the selected theme for the celebration of World Hydrography Day in 2021 (WHD 2021) is:

"One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography"

2. The theme is designed to showcase progress in knowledge and technology over the past 100 years, while celebrating the ground-breaking work which was done during this period. The goal is to highlight the past, present, and future of hydrography by showing the important work of early hydrographers, progress in technology, and state of the art technology. Australia, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Germany, India, Japan, Mauritius, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America responded to the invitation to share historical pictures of their work as well as pictures/videos of modern technologies such as autonomous vehicles and drones. The Secretariat thanks all the contributors for the provision of suitable materials.

3. The Secretariat has also received indication from Cuba, Italy and Republic of Korea that they will assist with the production of new videos highlighting these different aspects.

4. In support of WHD 2021, the IHO Secretariat will soon start to feed the IHO Facebook page (fb.me/IHOhydro), Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/IHOhydro>), LinkedIn account (linkedin.com/company/international-hydrographic-organization) and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpMKDQTKKIJSXmQCQzFqZPA/featured>). In addition, the IHO Secretariat will organize a dedicated page on the IHO website, where papers and other material relevant to the celebration will be posted. Member States and Stakeholders are invited to forward to the IHO Secretariat any material that they may create in support of their national WHD 2021 celebrations for posting on any of these platforms, preferably before 21 June 2021. The IHO Secretariat would also like to encourage Member States to follow the Secretariat on these social media accounts and share any relevant materials.

5. The major focus of the IHO Secretariat's outreach activities for 2021, as reported at the 2nd IHO Assembly (Reference B refers), will be the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau on 21 June 1921 – later to become the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization. According to Decision A2/15, the

“Peak-of-the-peak” event was originally planned for World Hydrography Day (WHD 2021) on 21 June 2021 with Member State representatives coming to participate in person.

6. In consideration of the continued travel and physical meeting limitations induced by the COVID19 pandemic, the IHO Secretariat has decided to reformat the celebrations. The “Peak-of-the-peak” event is now planned to be held as a hybrid event consisting of a small reception at the Secretariat with a select few representatives of local authorities and stakeholders by invitation only, exhibitions of modern survey technology in Monaco harbour and a panel discussion. Due to the ancient relations between the IHO and the Principality of Monaco and France, it is expected that His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco and a representative from the French Government will honour the IHO with a speech, as well as His Excellency Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, who has confirmed his participation. Italy informed the Secretariat of their intention to send the Italian Navy tall ship *Amerigo Vespucci* to Monaco. A detailed programme will be released when confirmed.

7. The Secretariat is currently working on a suitable digital presentation of all these activities, so that Member States around the world can participate “virtually”. An important element will be the live broadcast of the speeches noted under paragraph 6. There will be a broadcast of videos, highlighting the importance and the role of hydrography, and a virtual panel discussion on future challenges. The technical details to participate will be shared in due course.

8. The IHO Secretariat regrets that the celebrations of this important milestone in the existence of the Organization have had to be downsized and are lacking wider representation of Member States and collaborating partners in person but hopes that later on in 2021 or 2022 the situation will have improved and another IHO event will provide better conditions for a gathering in person with Member State representatives from diverse regions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathias Jonas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General