



IHO File No. S1/0402

CIRCULAR LETTER 04/2022
13 January 2022

FORMER IHO DIRECTOR NEIL GUY

Dear Hydrographer,

1. It is with great sadness that the IHO Secretariat has to announce the death of Rear Admiral Dr Neil Guy, South Africa who passed away on Sunday 09 January 2022, peacefully at home in Cape Town at the age of 86 after a long illness.
2. Neil hails from a long line of seafaring ancestors. The Guy family can proudly claim over 180 years' naval and merchant marine service, a record that is hard to beat. Besides pursuing a full-time Civilian Force naval career in the SA Navy, he was also in private practice as a full-time land surveyor. During his time in the SA Navy he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of two surface vessels and also two shore bases. This whilst managing his private career. He also was appointed to the SA Navy Hydrographic Office where his skills were utilised to great aplomb. It was during this time that his peers from the various Member States of the IHO recognised his skills and he was elected as a Director of the IHO from 1997 to 2002. This was the period of real uptake of the process to replace paper chart navigation with ECDIS. Neil encouraged industry to work jointly with IHO bodies on this vision and assisted Member States to begin this transition into hydrographic geoinformation providers.
3. After his return to South Africa, Neil kept committed to hydrographic matters. He took on the role as the Project Co-ordinator of the Western Indian Ocean GEF-Marine Highway and Coastal Contamination Prevention Project from 2007 to 2012. Neil was also instrumental in the activities of the Southern African Regional Cooperation Group on Safety of Navigation and Marine Environmental Protection (SAGNEP), the forerunner of the Southern and East African and Islands Regional Group for Safety of Navigation and Marine Environment Protection (SEAIGNEP), and the compilation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of SEAIGNEP which is in the process of being signed.
4. Neil is survived by his wife Margie, his children Sean, Kerry and Brendan, his grandchildren Joshua, Jordan, James, Francesca, Matthew and Rosie and his loving extended family.
5. The IHO Secretariat offers their most sincere condolences to his wife Margie and family. Neil's services rendered to Member States during his term at the IHO Secretariat will never be forgotten.

Yours sincerely,

International
Hydrographic
Organization

IHO



Organisation
Hydrographique
Internationale

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

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**Hydrography -
contributing to the
UN Ocean Decade**

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