

**MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USA) SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**
SELECTION OF CANDIDATES (13th Course, 10 August 2025 – 5 August 2026)

Reference: IHO CL 34/2024, dated 11 September 2024 – *Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) Sponsored by the Republic of Korea – call for Nominations (13th Course)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In the reference, the IHO Secretariat invited the IHO Member States to consider nominating one suitable candidate who would benefit from the opportunity offered by the IHO-Republic of Korea (ROK) Programme of Technical Cooperation to enroll in the 2025-2026 session of the Category “A” Master of Science in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), USA. The budget allocation from the ROK fund to sponsor the training for this session will be available for two students.
2. The IHO Secretariat received applications from six countries. The Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the ROK, the IHO Secretariat, the USM and the Chair of Capacity Building Sub-Committee as observer, met in person on 16 January 2025 and examined all the applications.
3. The candidates from **Guatemala, Mr Edgar Benjamin RAMIREZ DEL VALLE** and from **Sri Lanka, Mr Randunu DESHAPRIYA** were assessed as meeting all necessary criteria and were **selected** for the session that will be held at the USM from 10 August 2025 (reporting date) to 5 August 2026 (departure date). Individual notification letters have been sent to the selected applicants with detailed instructions. The candidate from Bangladesh, Mr Md HASNAIN is the reserve candidate.
4. In accordance with Annex C of the Reference (Timetable for the selection of candidates), the selected candidates must submit all the required documentation to the USM in liaison with Professor Stephan HOWDEN (e-mail: Stephan.Howden@usm.edu), Director of Hydrographic Science Research Center at the USM. The selected candidates will receive detailed logistic information directly from the USM.
5. Thanks to the continuing and generous support of the Republic Korea it is expected that another opportunity for training at the USM will be offered in 2026. The IHO Circular Letter regarding the call for nominations for this next session is planned to be circulated in August 2025. The Secretariat advises those organizations whose applications were not

selected this time, together with other prospective candidates, to begin preparation for next year's applications now. Prospective candidates should ensure that they have all the necessary documentation readily available well in advance, especially the necessary TOEFL or IELTS scores.

6. The IHO secretariat congratulates the candidates who have been selected and thanks the IHO Member States for their interest.

7. The IHO Secretariat would also like to renew its sincere thanks to the Republic of Korea for its substantial support to the IHO Capacity Building and other programmes.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi Sinapi', written in a cursive style.

Luigi SINAPI

IHO Director