

**IHO File No S3/4505-S1/3022**

**CIRCULAR LETTER 16/2025**  
**24 March 2025**

**IHO - NIPPON FOUNDATION GEOMAC PROJECT –  
SUCCESSFUL NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 17<sup>th</sup> COURSE**

Reference: IHO CL 04/2025 dated 23 January 2025 - *Call for Applications for Training under the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) Project, UKHO, Taunton, UK*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The CL indicated in Reference invited IHO Member States to nominate candidates who would benefit from the opportunity offered by the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) project, which provides training course in nautical cartography and is funded by the Nippon Foundation. The programme is recognised by the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) with Category "B".
2. The IHO Secretariat received 36 applications from 26 IHO Members States.
3. The selection panel, comprising of representatives from the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the IHO Secretariat assessed carefully all the applications received.
4. Candidates from:
  - Colombia (Jefferson URIBE),
  - Egypt (Omar MAKBOUL),
  - Jamaica (Fiona FERGUSON),
  - Kiribati (Ueakeia TOFINGA),
  - Nigeria (Abubakar ABDULRAHMAN),
  - Philippines (Anjanette ALABAS) and
  - Solomon Islands (Perry RUKALE)

were selected for the course that will be held at the UKHO in Taunton, United Kingdom, from 14 July to 12 December 2025. Individual notification letters will be distributed by the IHO Secretariat with the instructions to be followed by the selected applicants.


5. National authorities may not substitute the selected candidates with any other personnel, as the successful candidates were individually selected based on their merits.

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

7. Finally, the IHO Secretariat would like to thank the JHOD, UKHO, and especially the Nippon Foundation, for the successful results obtained so far. To date, the IHO – Nippon Foundation GEOMAC project and its forerunners, the Japan Capacity Building Project (JCBP) and the Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training (CHART) project, have educated 106 nautical cartographers, almost all of whom are now working in nautical cartographic production, thereby directly contributing to the achievement of the IHO's goals and targets.

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  
Director