

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

**CIRCULAR LETTER 18/2026**  
**27 March 2026**

**IHO - NIPPON FOUNDATION GEOMAC PROJECT –  
SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 18<sup>th</sup> COURSE**

Reference: IHO CL 02/2026 dated 08 January 2026 - *Call for Applications for 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 (MS) to nominate candidates who would benefit from internationally recognized training opportunity for nautical cartographers provided by the IHO - Nippon Foundation Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography (GEOMAC) project.

2. The IHO Secretariat received 41 applications from 27 MS and 1 non-MS (Observer of the Regional Hydrographic Commission).

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. The following candidates from:

- **Dominican Republic (Lenin RAMIREZ),**
- **Panama (Javier ARAUZ),**
- **Portugal (Gustavo GONZÁLEZ),**
- **Sri Lanka (Isuru WEERASINGHE),**
- **Türkiye (Çiğdem ÖZEN),**
- **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Suheyns Andreina SIERRA MEDINA) and**
- **Viet Nam (Manh NGUYEN DINH)**

were selected for the course that will be held at the UKHO in Taunton, United Kingdom, from 9 July to 11 December 2026. Individual notification letters will be distributed by the IHO Secretariat with the instructions to be followed by the selected applicants.

5. The national authorities may not replace the selected candidates with any other personnel, since the successful candidates were selected based on their individual merits.

6. The IHO Secretariat congratulates the selected candidates and advises those organisations whose candidates were not 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 express its sincere appreciation to the JHOD, the UKHO, and especially the Nippon Foundation, for their continued and significant contributions to the current GEOMAC project and its predecessors over the past 17 years.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi SINAPI', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luigi SINAPI  
Director