



International Hydrographic Organization

**2nd MEETING BETWEEN IHO AND
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Brussels, 5 April 2013

World Hydrography Day 2013

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IHB

Background

- Need to raise public awareness of the role and importance of hydrography

- 16th International Hydrographic Conference (April 2002)

DECISION No. 10 - ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHERS' DAY

The Conference decided to task the IHB Directing Committee to investigate how the United Nations might recognize a Hydrographers' day.

After consultation with the United Nations, the Bureau will circulate to Member States the title of the day and the possible date, either the date of foundation of the IHO [21 June 1921] or the date of entry into force of its Convention [22 September 1970].

- Consultation of IHO Member States (2004)

“World Hydrography Day” will be celebrated on 21st June, date when the Organization with the name International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) was established in 1921



Background

- Search for the appropriate UN procedure (2004-2005)
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/60/30 on Oceans and the law of the sea (29 November 2005):

The General Assembly (...)

60. *Welcomes* the adoption by the International Hydrographic Organization of the World Hydrography Day, to be celebrated annually on 21 June, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all level and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis, and urges all States to work with that organization to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;



Implementation

- Annual theme proposed to Member States by the IHB Directing Committee;
- National celebrations by Hydrographic Offices;
- International celebration by the IHB in Monaco;
- Press release prepared by the Directing Committee for use in Monaco and by Member States;
- Dedicated page on the IHO website.



WHD past themes

- 2006: **85 years of the IHO** contributing to worldwide safety to navigation
- 2007: **Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs)**; an essential element of safety at sea and efficient maritime operations
- 2008: **Capacity Building**, a vital tool to assist the IHO in achieving its mission and objectives
- 2009: Hydrography protecting the **marine environment**
- 2010: Hydrographic services: the essential element for **maritime trade**
- 2011: **Human resources**: the important element to the success of hydrography
- 2012: **International hydrographic cooperation**: supporting safe navigation



WHD 2013

- Theme: Hydrography - underpinning the **Blue Economy**
- Papers and material posted on a dedicated page on the IHO web site (Home > About IHO > World Hydrography Day)
- Distribution of a Background Brief
- Plans for Monaco Celebration on 20 June:
 - Presence of a survey ship from Italy;
 - Media conference and local interviews emphasizing the theme;
 - Various other activities with schools in the area (connection with Monacology 2013);
 - Reception where HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, members of his Government and other officials and representatives from diplomatic missions, other organizations and local maritime industry will be invited.



WHD 2013

- Theme: Hydrography - underpinning the **Blue Economy**
- ... Additionally, it is intended to hold the annual meeting between the IHO and the European Commission close to WHD 2013 in order to highlight the connection of this year's WHD theme with the strategic drivers of the European initiative “Marine Knowledge 2020”.



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