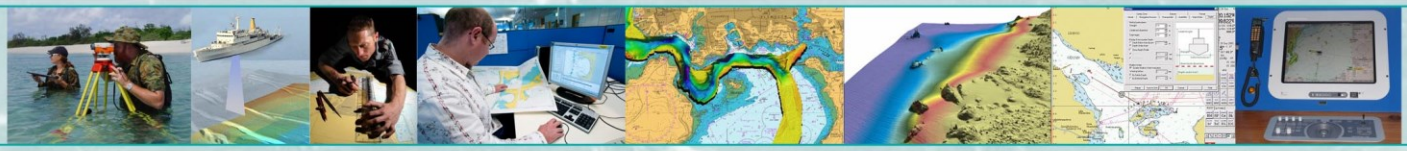


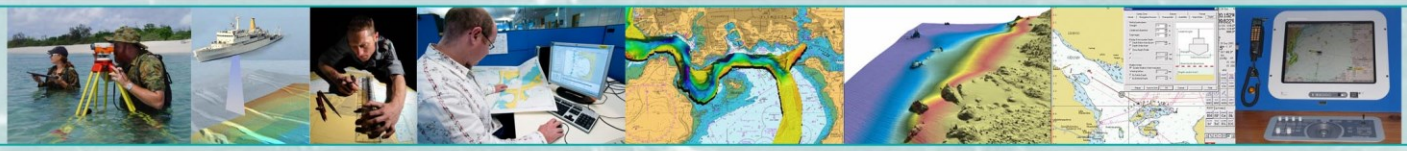
VISIT TO THE USM HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER AND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE CATEGORY "A" MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN

Mississippi, USA, 28 to 29 July

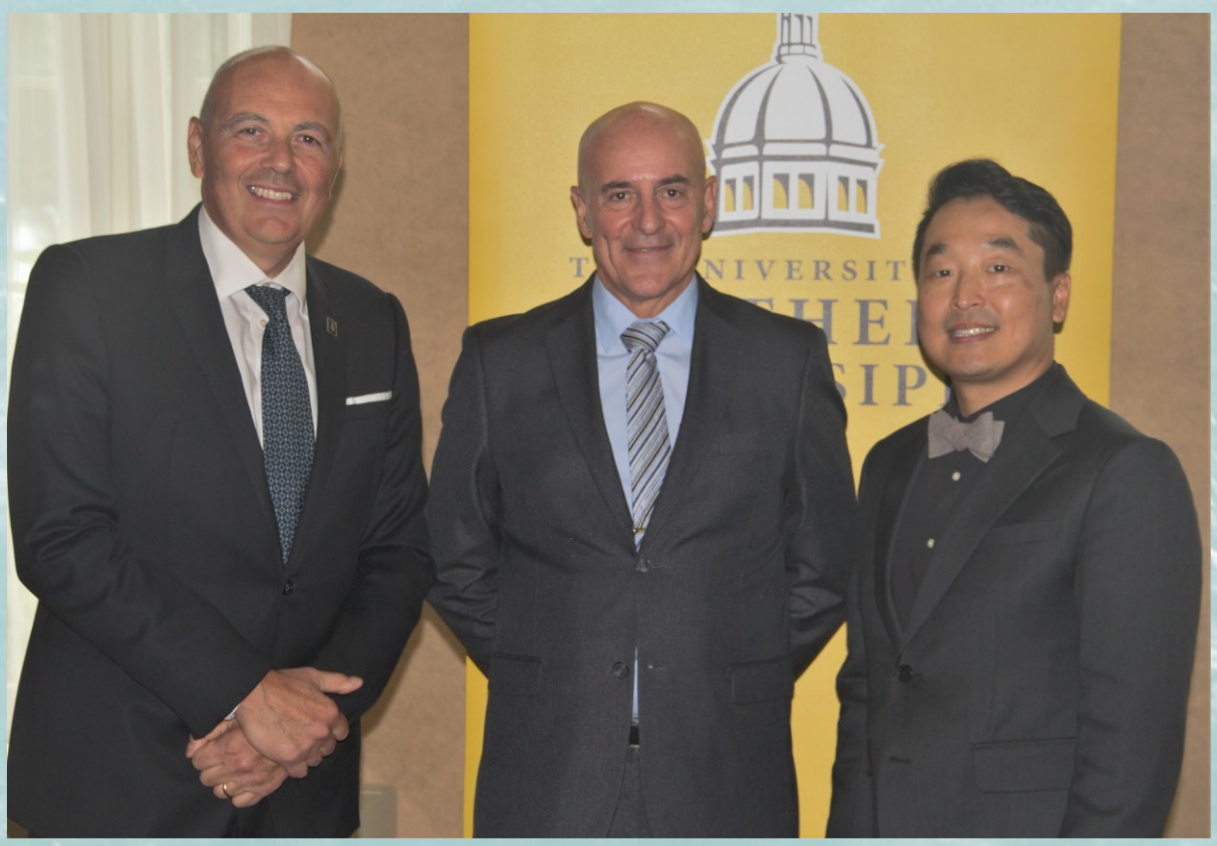
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 3.3.9	Plan, administer and implement Capacity Building activities, including: Technical and advisory visits, Technical Workshops, Seminars, Short and long courses, On the Job Training (ashore / on board)

The Graduation Ceremony of the Category "A" Master of Science in Hydrographic Science and Category "B" Bachelor of Science in Marine Science (Hydrography) was held at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), USA on 29 July 2022. Three students from Bangladesh, Philippines, and Thailand graduated from the Category "A" Master of Science in Hydrographic Science Programme under the IHO-Republic of Korea (ROK) Programme of Technical Cooperation.

Participants at the graduation ceremony at USM

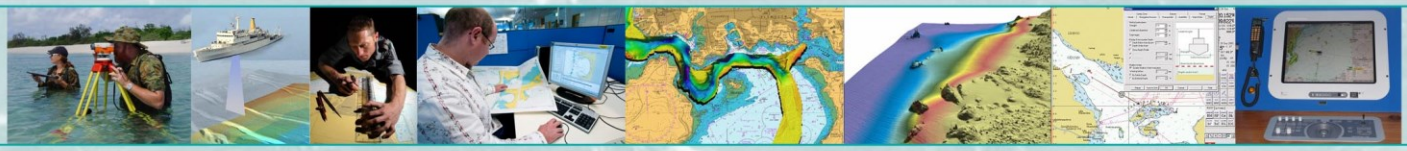


The ceremony was hosted by USM President, Dr Joseph S. Paul. Seven students graduated from the M.S. in Hydrographic Science this year, including three supported by the IHO-ROK Programme and one by the U.S. Navy. Three students graduated from the B.S. in Marine Science. 2 representatives from sponsoring countries (Mr Sangkil Lee, Counselor of ROK Embassy in the U.S. and Mr Matt Borbash, Deputy Hydrographer of U.S. Navy) attended the ceremony. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi in person after three years of absence due to the pandemic.



IHO Director Luigi Sinapi, USM Coordinator Alberto P. Costa Neves and ROK Counselor Sangkil Lee

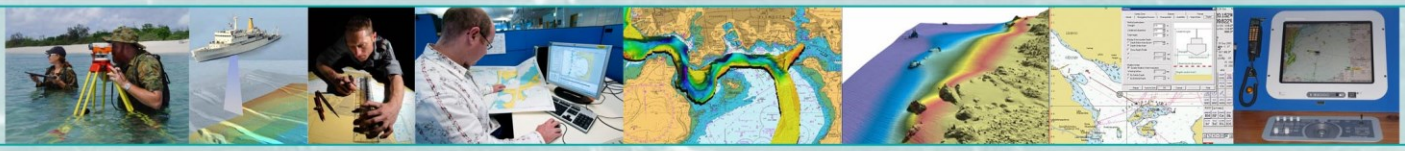
Since 2000, the USM has been organizing the Category "A" Master of Science course in Hydrographic Science, recognized by the IBSC (FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers). The IHO-ROK Technical Cooperation Programme under the Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and ROK commenced with supporting students to attend the course from 2013 to contribute to the IHO Capacity Building Programme. The number of successful graduate students from the programme totals 20, including those from the 2021-2022 academic year, from 12 IHO Member States (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Estonia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Thailand and Tunisia).



The President of USM congratulated the graduates and introduced the programme while underlining the increasing demand for competent and highly qualified hydrographers in many fields such as government agencies and industry. IHO Director Luigi Sinapi thanked the USM and the Republic of Korea for this successful program since the 2013-14 academic year, highlighting the importance of the role of the graduates occupying prominent positions within and outside the International Hydrographic Community, at national, regional and international level, and stressed the successful international collaboration between the IHO, ROK and USM. Counsellor Mr Lee from the ROK Embassy to the U.S.A. echoed the significance of collaboration of the three organizations behind the Category A programme at the USM and pledged continued support for the Capacity Building programme on behalf of Mr Byeon, Director General of Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA). Mr Borbash, Deputy Hydrographer of U.S. Navy presented the 'Hydrographer of the Navy Education Award' to Mr Marlon E. Estropia (Philippines), one of the IHO-ROK scholars, as Mr Estropia had shown outstanding performance during the 2021-22 academic year.

Mr Estropia (Philippines) with the "Hydrographer of the Navy Education Award"

The ceremony was preceded by a visit to the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, on 28 July 2022, where the U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command, the USM School of Ocean Science and Engineering and the USM Hydrographic Science Research Center are situated. The visiting group included IHO Director Luigi Sinapi and Counselor Mr Lee, Republic of Korea. During the visit to U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command, the representatives participated in various information sharing exercises targeting familiarization of operational capabilities within naval oceanography and hydrography. The IHO's visit reaffirmed a partnership with the U.S. Navy spanning over 100-years, contributing to safe navigation of seas and oceans through oceanographic and hydrographic research.



Visit to U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command

At the USM facilities, representatives from the IHO, the Republic of Korea and the USM discussed how academic institutions could participate and contribute to IHO-led initiatives, such as the Joint IHO-Singapore Research and Innovation Laboratory, Seabed 2030, crowd-sourced bathymetry and satellite-derived bathymetry.