



June 20, 2018

To Associate Members, Observers and other coastal States in the MACHC

Subject: MACHC Capacity Building Work Program: Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 26-27 November 2018)

Dear Colleagues,

Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography

1. The 2018 Capacity Building Work Programme of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) provides support for a regional seminar on *Raising Awareness of Hydrography*. This will be the fifth year that the annual MACHC meeting has been preceded by such a regional seminar and on this occasion the topics covered will be Hydrographic Governance and the crucial role this plays in enabling coastal States to meet mandatory international obligations, to be followed on Day 2 by a workshop on the sharing of experience in dealing with Maritime Disasters.
2. Accordingly, a seminar will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 26 to 27 November 2018. The seminar will precede the 19th meeting of the Meso-American– Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) that will be held from 28 November to 01 December 2018 at the same venue. Outline details of the seminar are provided at Annex A.
3. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) are being invited to participate in the seminar together with the IHO, as part of the UN "delivering as one" initiative.

Working Language

4. All seminar presentations will be delivered in English. However, Colombia, as hosts, intend to provide interpretation in Spanish.

Follow-on Meeting

5. Participants in the seminar are expected to remain in Cartagena de Indias on completion of the seminar and to attend the 19th MACHC to consolidate the knowledge gained during the seminar and to experience how an IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) functions in the regional delivery of hydrographic services. In addition, the combination of attendance at the seminar and attendance at the MACHC meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to establish or strengthen existing professional networks.

Funding Arrangements

6. All meals, accommodation and travel for the seminar will be paid by the IHO Capacity Building Fund for ONE participant per country.

