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CIRCULAR LETTER 51/2016
29 September 2016

**MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USA)
SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (Fifth Course, August 2017 – August 2018)

Reference A: CL 12/2016 dated 8 March - *Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea - Fourth course - Selection of Candidates.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Following the selection announced in Reference A, two students (from Malaysia and Philippines) successfully enrolled in the FIG/IHO/ICA recognized Category "A" (Cat. "A") Master of Science Programme in Hydrography held at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), USA, and funded by the Republic of Korea (ROK). The IHB Directing Committee is now pleased to call for nominations for the fifth ROK-funded programme at the USM (2017-2018 Programme).
2. The Republic of Korea has provided funds through the IHO Capacity Building Programme that can be made available for up to three students to attend the next course that will take place at the USM from August 2017 to August 2018. The exact start and finish dates will be announced later. Further details of the course are provided in Annex A. Funding support will cover almost all student expenses, and, in particular, course fees, travel to and from the respective countries, accommodation, medical insurance, books and a moderate living allowance.
3. Member States are invited to consider nominating ONE suitable candidate who will benefit from this training and will thereby assist the nominating country in developing its hydrographic capabilities.
4. It is essential that candidates are employed by a national hydrographic office, a maritime authority or a related national agency in the nominating country. The nomination must include a statement specifying that the candidate is, or will be, involved in the provision of hydrographic services and that, once the training has been successfully completed, the candidate will continue to work in this field.
5. The authority nominating a candidate should carefully select the nominee and ensure that opportunities will be in place for the candidate to transfer the learning gained through the programme in a structured manner for the benefit of his or her parent organization. This will ensure that the individual and the sponsoring organization gain maximum benefit.

6. **Nominated candidates MUST meet the following criteria:**

- a. Have a university diploma (equivalent to the US Undergraduate Diploma) in a hydrography-related area (hydrography, cartography, ocean sciences, engineering, etc.) and provide a GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) test score;
- b. Provide evidence of a good standard of English, both written and spoken, with reasonable technical English via TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score tests;
- c. Have a high standard in mathematics, physics and computing and meet the minimum requirements of the Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors (IHO Publication S-5A) regarding the following Basic Subjects:
 - B1 Mathematics, Statistics, Theory of Observations
 - B2 Information and communication technology
 - B3 Physics

Matlab is a key tool for the programme and the USM will strive to deliver an introductory course once the students arrive to the Campus. However, students are encouraged to seek qualification in Matlab before the beginning of the programme.

- d. Comply with the submission requirements to the USM presented in paragraph 10 below.

7. Applications should be submitted in accordance with Procedure 7 of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC). This procedure is available on the IHO website at: www.iho.int > Capacity Building > CB Procedures (available in PDF and with a template in MSWord). **In addition to following CBSC Procedure 7, candidates must also provide the IHO Secretariat with:**

- a. their graduation diploma (copy);
- b. a curriculum vitae (including a photo) and any related documents (copy);
- c. GRE test result (the Verbal and Quantitative GRE scores should add up to 297 but this is not an absolute minimum if other admission factors score highly. USM does not have an official minimum);
- d. TOEFL (or IELTS) test result (combined TOEFL score should be 80 or better);
- e. A personal letter stating goals and interests;
- f. Three letters of recommendation.

8. **Applications should be submitted no later than 17 February 2017** to the following address:

International Hydrographic Organization

Fax: + 377 93 10 81 40

e-mail: cl-lc@iho.int with copy to adcc@iho.int and pok@iho.int

9. A Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the IHO Secretariat and from the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA), in liaison with the Programme Coordinator of the USM, will select students and reserves for the 2017-2018 Programme. Selected candidates and reserves will be informed of their selection **by 6 March 2017**. Member States will also be informed of the results of the selection process.

10. Selected candidates (the IHO Applicants) will then be required to submit the following documentation to the USM **within 14 days** and **no later than 20 March 2017**:

- a. a completed online submission at: <https://usmgrad.admissionpros.com/default.asp>;
- b. a non-refundable application fee (approximately 60 US Dollars);
- c. the official transcripts of documents;
- d. the GRE score;
- e. the TOEFL (or IELTS) score;
- f. a personal letter stating goals and interests;
- g. contact information for 3 academic or professional recommenders, and
- h. a curriculum vitae.

Any IHO Applicant who is subsequently not accepted by the USM will be replaced by one of the reserves, if possible. Prospective candidates are encouraged to seek guidance from the CB Coordinators in their respective Regional Hydrographic Commission.

11. The timetable for the selection and processing of applicants for the 2017-2018 Programme is provided in Annex B. Candidates and their nominating authorities should carefully note the tight timetable and the need to meet the various deadlines.

12. In order to overcome the tight schedule between the selection of students and the submission of their documentation to the USM, candidates may wish to consider providing the required admission documentation to the USM in advance of any decision of the Selection Panel. However, it should be borne in mind that, even if a candidate is accepted for admission by the USM in advance of selection by the Selection Panel, the I-20 Invitation Letter required to obtain a visa and the subsequent funding support will only be provided to those applicants who are eventually selected by the Selection Panel.

13. Candidates and nominating authorities should also carefully consider the following very important aspects of the process:

- a. GRE (<http://www.ets.org/gre>) score tests are mandatory for all applicants;
- b. TOEFL (<http://www.ets.org/toefl>) English score tests are mandatory for all applicants but may be waived for candidates from English-speaking countries or those who received their bachelor's degree from an accredited English-speaking university. Candidates may take the IELTS (<http://www.ielts.org>) English score test when the TOEFL is not available in their region. The official test scores above must be received from the testing agency (USM code is 1479);
- c. A number of candidates for the previous courses failed to pass the GRE and the TOEFL tests, others failed even to get an appointment to do the tests in time to submit their documents;
- d. Funding support will be available for the selected student alone; no funds will be provided for family members or dependents;
- e. Test fees, visa and other administrative expenses must be paid by the student or the student's national sponsoring authority. These expenses are not covered by the CB Fund;
- f. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted by the Selection Panel.

14. The Directing Committee would like to reiterate its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its generous support of the IHO's role and objectives.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annexes:

- A. Summary of the USM Category 'A' Hydrography Programme
- B. Timetable for selection of 2017-2018 USM-Cat 'A' Programme Candidates

SUMMARY OF THE USM CATEGORY 'A' HYDROGRAPHY PROGRAMME

August 2017 – August 2018

Courses

This is an accelerated one-year track, which includes two periods of classroom lectures and practical exercises and one period of application, combining for about 50 continuous weeks of study.

Master's Degree Curriculum

<u>One Year Degree Programme</u>	
Fall Semester	
HYD 600	Classical Geodesy
HYD 607	Oceanography for Hydrographers
HYD 608	Practical Hydrographic Science
HYD 609	Nautical Science
HYD 620	Math Concepts for Hydrographers
MAR 668	Applied Ocean Acoustics
Spring Semester	
HYD 601	Hydrographic Data Management
HYD 604	Kinematic Positioning
HYD 605	Applied Bathymetry
HYD 611	Remote Sensing for Hydrographers
HYD 612	Water Levels
Summer Semester	
HYD 603	Law & Policy for Hydrographic Science
HYD 606	Nautical Cartography and GIS
HYD 610	Hydrographic Science Field Project

More information about the programme is available at:
<http://www.usm.edu/marine/hydrographic-science-degrees>

TIMETABLE FOR THE SELECTION OF 2017 – 2018 USM-CAT A PROGRAMME CANDIDATES

Deadline	Action	Responsible	Observation/Status
10/02/2017	Complete required documentation for application including GRE and TOEFL (or IELTS) tests	Candidates	
17/02/2017	Submit candidate application to the IHO Secretariat	Nominating Authority	
02/03/2017	Selection Board meeting	IHO Secretariat, ROK	
06/03/2017	Issue notification letter to the selected candidates and request for the affidavit	IHO Secretariat	
13/03/2017	Send signed affidavit to the IHO Secretariat	Selected Candidates	
15/03/2017	Issue letter of financial support for the Selected Candidates	IHO Secretariat	
16/03/2017	Issue Circular Letter for selection results	IHO Secretariat	
17/03/2017	Finish online application to the USM	Selected Candidates	
31/03/2017	Issue invitation letter (I-20) for F-1 visa to Accepted Students	USM	
03/05/2017	Send copy of visa and passport to the IHO Secretariat	Accepted Students	
25/05/2017	Transfer the funds to the USM account	IHO Secretariat	
30/05/2017	Provide air tickets to the Accepted Students	IHO Secretariat	
20/07/2017	Provide the Accepted Students with start-up cash for settling in	IHO Secretariat	Date may change
01/08/2017	Report to the USM Campus in the USA	Accepted Students	Date may change