IOC Circular Letter No. 2422

(Available in English only)

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10 February 2012

To: IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

cc: The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Nippon Foundation – GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Training Project Year 9 (2012–2013)

Nominations are being sought for the ninth class of the GEBCO Nippon Foundation training program leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry (PCOB) at the University of New Hampshire, USA, to begin late August 2012. The programme offers full scholarships for selected students during the training, including tuition, fees and stipend, which are supported directly by the Nippon Foundation and GEBCO.

Students will undertake an intensive 12-month training of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to teaching staff from the university, other experts are brought in from elsewhere for limited periods to give specialist lectures. The content includes courses in acoustics, geology, bottom composition and acoustic backscatter, data analysis and integration, margin and abyssal sediments, physical oceanography, positioning, satellite altimetry, structure of ocean basins, sonar performance, surface interpolation, survey design, and uncertainty management. Students can also select additional courses from a range of electives.

The language of instruction is English, and candidates must demonstrate capability to undertake graduate level instruction in English to the satisfaction of the University of New Hampshire. Candidates must be aware that this is an intensive course, even for students whose first language is English. The minimum standard for admission is a four year Bachelors degree in a related field. Since GEBCO is affiliated with both the IHO and the IOC, candidates from both contributing disciplines are considered equally on their merits.

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**Member States are requested** to consider nominating suitable candidates for the Post-graduate Diploma in Ocean Bathymetry course among their nationals. Nomination decisions should include consideration of the following: Level and subject of degree(s) held by nominee, experience in ocean bathymetry, ability in English, future opportunities to work on bathymetric projects, likelihood of candidate continuing to work in the field and personal motivation.

Application forms are available for download from: [http://www.gebco.net/training/training_project/](http://www.gebco.net/training/training_project/)

**Applications must be received by the end of March 2012.**

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO