IOC Circular Letter No 2933
(Available in English only)  IOC/VR/JB/ic
14 February 2023

To: IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC)

Cc: Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Nippon Foundation / GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Training Program Year 20 (2023–2024)

Under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, GEBCO’s aim is to provide the most authoritative publicly-available bathymetry of the world’s ocean. As part of this activity, GEBCO has been funded by the Nippon Foundation to train a new generation of scientists and hydrographers in ocean bathymetry through a twelve-month course at the University of New Hampshire, USA, leading to the Graduate Certificate in Ocean Mapping.

By this letter, I am pleased to advise that nominations are being sought for the 20th class of the IOC-IHO-Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Training Program that will begin in late August 2023 (pending funding to be confirmed end of March by the Nippon Foundation).

Students will undertake an intensive 12-month training composed of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, including secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to teaching staff from the University of New Hampshire, external experts will be specially invited to deliver specialist lectures.

The course syllabus covers integrated seabed mapping systems and the fundamentals of ocean mapping, acoustics, positioning, survey design, uncertainty management, geological and physical oceanography, seafloor characteristics, structure of ocean basins, data analysis and integration, and surface interpolation. Students may 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 relevant four-year degree in a related field.

A description of the course, eligibility for entry, financial details, schedule, course content, contact information and a downloadable application form are available at: https://www.gebco.net/training/

Applications should be sent directly to the course organizers at nfg_project_manager@ccom.unh.edu no later than 15th April 2023.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary