



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات  
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO - 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France  
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18  
E-mail: [v.ryabinin@unesco.org](mailto:v.ryabinin@unesco.org)

**IOC Circular Letter No 2964**  
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/JB/ic  
26 September 2023

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC  
C.c. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC  
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies of IOC (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

**Subject: Invitation to the "Map the Gaps" Symposium  
7 & 8 November 2023, Monaco**

On 7 and 8 November 2023, the International Hydrographic Organization, co-sponsor of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) with the IOC, will host the "Map the Gaps" Symposium as part of the 2023 GEBCO week. The symposium will be held at the historic Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and is being delivered in collaboration with [Map the Gaps](#), a non-profit organization. It is generously supported by the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project and is organized in partnership with the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert 1er Foundation.

This two-day event will bring together experts in seabed mapping from across the public, private, academic, and civil society sectors. It will also include a special showcase day on the latest developments in CrowdSourced Bathymetry, with the aim of exploring novel approaches to completing the last great mapping endeavour on our planet, a complete map of the oceans.

The GEBCO grid is widely accepted as being the base-layer to support Challenge 8 of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: create a digital representation of the ocean.

Taking place during the 120th year of GEBCO, this event promises to be the pinnacle of the anniversary celebrations. It will provide an inspiring environment for our community to come together, share knowledge and experience in order to build the relationships required for the continuation of this most important mission.

We invite you to consider attending this important event, whose draft agenda and topics are available on the Map the Gaps website.

Link for registration:  
<https://www.mapthegaps.org/symposium-2023>. Deadline for registration is 13 October 2023.

**Chairperson**

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA  
Professor  
Atmosphere and Ocean Research  
Institute, The University of Tokyo  
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5  
2778564 Kashiwa  
JAPAN

**Executive Secretary**

Dr Vladimir RYABININ  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP  
FRANCE

**Vice-Chairpersons**

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE  
Directrice de Recherche  
Centre national de la recherche scientifique  
(CNRS)  
3 rue Michel Ange  
75016 Paris  
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV  
Director  
Institute of Oceanology  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
40 Parvi May Str.  
9000 Varna  
BULGARIA

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR  
Executive Secretary  
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)  
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66  
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306  
111071 Bogotá, D.C.  
COLOMBIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA  
Director  
Indian National Centre for Ocean  
Information Services (INCOIS)  
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)  
Hyderabad 500090  
INDIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA  
President  
National Institute of  
Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF)  
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi  
Alexandria  
EGYPT

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IHO Assistant Director Mr Sam Harper, GEBCO Secretary ([samuel.harper@iho.int](mailto:samuel.harper@iho.int)).

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary