Greetings from HYDRO 2023 Organizing Committee

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Greetings to all readers of The International Hydrographic Review! It is with great pleasure and pride that we extend our warmest welcome to the upcoming issue featuring selected contributions from HYDRO 2023 in Genoa. As members of the Organizing Committee, we are delighted to offer this foreword as a testament to the success and significance of HYDRO 2023.

The conference held in Genoa was a resounding success, bringing together experts, professionals, and enthusiasts from around the globe to engage in fruitful discussions, exchange insights, and explore advancements in hydrography and related fields. We are immensely grateful to all participants, presenters, sponsors, and organizers whose contributions made this event possible.

HYDRO 2023 marked a significant milestone as it was the first time that Italy had the honor of hosting the conference. This historic occasion underscored Italy's rich maritime heritage and its commitment to advancing hydrographic science and technology on the global stage.

At HYDRO 2023, seven main topics took center stage, encompassing a diverse array of subjects vital to the advancement of hydrography:

1. Coastal Resilience: Discussions surrounding coastal resilience delved into strategies and technologies aimed at mitigating the impacts of coastal hazards and climate change, ensuring the sustainability of coastal communities and ecosystems.
2. Sustainable Underwater Infrastructures: Exploring the theme of sustainability, sessions focused on the development and maintenance of underwater infrastructures, with an emphasis on environmentally friendly practices and solutions.
3. Blue Transition: Highlighting the shift towards a sustainable blue economy, this topic examined innovative approaches to ocean resource management, renewable energy generation, and economic development while preserving marine ecosystems.
4. Ocean Exploration: From deep-sea exploration to the discovery of marine biodiversity hotspots, discussions under this track showcased the latest advancements in ocean exploration technologies and methodologies.

Impressions from HYDRO 2023, 7–9 November, Genoa, Italy.

1. Collaboration and Partnerships: Recognizing the importance of collaboration, sessions in this track explored partnerships between governments, industries, academia, and non-profit organizations to address common challenges and achieve shared goals in hydrography and oceanography.
2. Quality: Ensuring data quality and accuracy is fundamental to hydrographic operations. Topics under this track focused on quality assurance, standards compliance, and best practices in data collection, processing, and dissemination.
3. Enabling Technologies: Rapid advancements in technology continue to drive innovation in hydrography. Sessions in this topic area highlighted emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and remote sensing, and their applications in marine surveying and mapping.

Throughout HYDRO 2023, attendees were treated to a myriad of enlightening presentations and networking opportunities, the conference was a beacon of innovation and collaboration.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the speakers whose expertise and insights enriched our discussions and contributed to the success of HYDRO 2023. Your dedication to advancing the field of hydrography is truly commendable. Additionally, we express our sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their generous support, which played a pivotal role in making HYDRO 2023 a memorable and impactful event. Your commitment to advancing hydrographic research and education is invaluable.

As we reflect on the highlights of HYDRO 2023, we are reminded of the collective passion and dedication of the hydrographic community to advancing our understanding of the world's oceans and waterways. We hope that the selected contributions showcased in this issue will inspire further dialogue and propel the field of hydrography to new heights.

Finally, we wish the organizers and participants of HYDRO 2024 in Rostock the very best of luck for a successful and fruitful conference. May it be filled with insightful discussions, groundbreaking discoveries, and enduring collaborations.

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