

Pre-DIPCON

18-19 April 2017
Paris

1.2 (E) – Status of IALA and the World-Wide Academy

Note by the Secretariat

1. ORIGIN AND STATUS OF IALA

Following the building of modern lighthouses during the 1800s, and acknowledging the need for global coordination of maritime navigation safety, international lighthouse conferences were convened from 1926 onwards.

IALA was formed in 1957 as an international technical association based in Paris to support the goals of those earlier conferences. It is a consultative organization with a recommendatory and technical nature and is not-for-profit and non-political. It has the status of an international Non-Governmental Organization.

IALA has its Headquarters in Saint Germain en Laye, near Paris, France.

The IALA motto of *"Successful voyages, sustainable planet"*

IALA's mission in the maritime arena is summed up in its chosen motto of *"Successful voyages, sustainable planet"*. The principal aims of IALA are:

- To harmonise standards for aids to navigation systems worldwide;
- To facilitate the safe and efficient movement of shipping; and
- To enhance the protection of the marine environment.

The overall aim of IALA is to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through improvement and harmonisation of aids to navigation worldwide and other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment. It does this by creating Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines of a technical nature, and by encouraging training and capacity building in developing countries.

Over the years, key achievements of IALA have included (in no particular order) a uniform Maritime Buoyage System (MBS); guidance on the provision of aids to navigation; model courses for the training and certification of aids to navigation managers, technicians and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) personnel; the development of waterway risk models (PAWSA and IWRAP Mk2); a harmonised maritime Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) service; guidance on the marking of offshore structures; guidance on heritage; the development of the IMO-mandated Automatic Identification System (AIS); and the creation of the IALA World-Wide Academy.



2. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

IALA works closely with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and plays an active part in the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). IALA has consultative status and is represented regularly at relevant IMO committee and sub-committee meetings and the IMO's International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) draws directly on the work of IALA. In 2012, the IMO supported the establishment of the IALA World-Wide Academy – the training and capacity building arm of IALA – and requested to be kept updated on the work carried out jointly by the IMO, IALA and IHO in the area of capacity building under the United Nations “Delivering as One” initiative.

3. IALA TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

IALA develops wide-ranging technical guidance through the work of its Committees. These are the ‘engine room’ of the association. IALA Committees bring together marine aids to navigation authorities, subject matter experts, manufacturers and consultants from all parts of the world. Participation in Committee work offers the opportunity to:

- Contribute expertise and compare experiences with other IALA members;
- Share points of view within the international marine community;
- Participate in the development of new systems and technologies;
- Enable the worldwide maritime community to speak as one voice in international forums at a time when marine requirements run the risk of being lost within a fast developing technological context; and
- Meet with suppliers, or customers, and contribute to the design of “best practice” products.

4. IALA PUBLICATIONS

The principal result of the Committees’ work is the production of IALA documentation with a view to publication. IALA publications comprise:

- Standards, which form an overarching framework aimed at fostering the safe and efficient movement of vessels; their implementation by all coastal states will enhance both the quality and the harmonization of marine aids to navigation worldwide;
- Recommendations, which describe what marine aids to navigation to plan and design in order to comply with IALA Standards;
- Guidelines, which provide information on how to implement all aspects of IALA Recommendations, thus providing guidance on best practice for implementation;
- Manuals, which provide an overview of a wide subject area, for example, the NAVGUIDE and the VTS Manual; and
- Model courses, which are training documents defining the level of training and the knowledge needed for VTS personnel, aids to navigation managers and aids to navigation technicians.

These publications, although not legally binding, are universally acknowledged to represent best practice. IMO SOLAS Chapter V makes explicit reference to IALA guidance documents.

5. IALA WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The IALA World-Wide Academy (WWA) is the vehicle by which IALA delivers training and capacity building. It is an integral, but independently funded part of IALA. Its strategy is to facilitate the delivery



of both aids to navigation and VTS model courses by accredited training organizations throughout the world.

The Academy has been operating since 2012 and its activities in lesser developed countries continue to grow at a rapid pace, in the context of maritime development, as these countries need to have a cadre of competent personnel to ensure they meet their obligations under international law (i.e. SOLAS Convention) to provide marine aids to navigation and, where appropriate, VTS.

IALA and its Academy together are in a uniquely strong position to assist both existing and potential National Members for the purpose of awareness raising, training and capacity building in both aids to navigation and VTS management matters, through the network of IALA-endorsed experts.

6. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF IALA

IALA takes a pro-active approach, conducting a range of carefully selected activities with well-defined objectives:

- The four IALA Committees each meet twice per year. They concern:
 - Aids to Navigation Requirements and Management (ARM)
 - E-Navigation (ENAV)
 - Aids to Navigation Engineering and Sustainability (ENG)
 - Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)
- Every four years, the IALA Conference brings together the world's leading experts in the provision of aids to navigation and related services.
- World experts also gather at the four-yearly VTS Symposia and at other specialist symposia.
- IALA seminars and workshops on specific subjects are held regularly in key global locations.
- Awareness raising and training seminars are organized by the IALA World-Wide Academy.

7. IALA MEMBERSHIP

IALA comprises National Members from 83 countries as well as Associate and Industrial Members from 192 organizations.

Membership Categories

National Member

National aids to navigation organizations can join IALA as National Members and are eligible for election to the IALA Council; elections are held during General Assembly meetings. National Members significantly influence the development of IALA documentation through their participation in IALA Committees.

Associate Member

Ports, scientific organizations and other bodies with an interest in aids to navigation matters can join IALA as Associate Members. Their contribution to the development of IALA guidance on best practices, through their participation in IALA Committees, is important to IALA's work and the maritime community as a whole.

Industrial Member

Manufacturers or distributors of marine aids to navigation equipment and organizations providing marine aids to navigation services or technical advice under contract can join IALA as Industrial Members, who have the opportunity to participate in IALA Committee work and to exhibit their technologies during IALA conferences, symposia, workshops and seminars. Industrial Members also



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enjoy the unique advantage of publishing editorial articles free of charge and advertising at competitive rates in the IALA Bulletin, where their achievements and products reach well-targeted readers.

8. THE CONFERENCE IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided.