IALA COUNCIL   **December 9 - 13, 2013**
56th Session   **Goa**
                                                                                                          India

Agenda item 10 – IALA World-Wide Academy

10.3   Documents to note

13.3.4 Forum on Vessel Traffic Services - Singapore

Summary and Recommendations

This four-day Forum on Vessel Traffic Services was intended to enable executives and authorities in charge of VTS, maritime safety and safety of navigation in the region to discuss and to be informed of contemporary issues in this specific field. This Forum was also considered as a platform where matters related to the operational aspects and training needs could be addressed. While the Forum indeed facilitated a better understanding of contemporary issues, it also assisted the Secretariats of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Association for Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouses Authorities (IALA) to identify actual needs of Member States in order to prepare a "need base" and realistic programme under IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) to deliver better services in the future.

The Forum was held in Singapore, from 1 to 4 October, 2013. It was hosted by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. 31 participants from 15 IMO Member States and one Associate Member in Asia attended the Forum. In addition to the host nation, these were Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the), Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines (the), Thailand, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China.

General opinion expressed at the conclusion of the Forum highlighted that all the participants appreciated and benefited from the information provided and the interaction between participants during each session.

In concluding the Forum, the participants expressed the wish to underline some of the key points developed during the meeting in adopting the following fourteen recommendations:

> 1.   National administrations should define and promulgate their role and responsibilities for the delivery of VTS, noting their international obligations under SOLAS and national legislation. IMO and IALA should provide guidance to assist them to undertake and promulgate this in a consistent manner;

> 2. Participants who are not existing IALA members should endeavour to become members and encourage effective participation by their administrations in the IMO and IALA, in particular the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) and the IALA VTS Committee;

3. The exchange of experience, information and knowledge should be encouraged at the regional level to improve maritime safety and efficiency, protection of the marine environment and maritime domain awareness;

4. The establishment of accredited regional training organizations should be considered and Competent Authorities are encouraged to achieve training in their region consistent with IALA Recommendations V-103 on Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel and associated Model Courses;

5. The deployment of IMO and IALA expertise to conduct needs assessment missions for coastal States and their adjacent waters should be considered as part of IMO and IALA WWA's capacity-building strategy;

6. Participants are encouraged to formally request IMO and IALA to provide such expertise referred in paragraph 5, in particular to assist in the determination and operation of VTS;

7. Countries, in pursuance of the decision of the IMO Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) regarding the development of National Maritime Policies, adopted by the TCC, are encouraged to complete their Country Maritime Profiles (CMPs) in connection with paragraph 5;

8. Competent / VTS Authorities providing VTS should define and declare the type/s of VTS services provided in accordance with IALA Guideline 1089 on Provision Vessel Traffic Services (INS, TOS and NAS) and Guideline 1083 on Standard Nomenclature to identify and refer to VTS centres. This should be done in accordance with IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services;

9. A framework for the mandatory training of VTS personnel should be considered in a manner similar to the provisions for navigating officers provided in STCW Convention;

10. International recommendations and guidelines relating to VTS should be communicated as "Standards" as a means to create a better international awareness and understanding of their implications and significance.

11. National Authorities are requested to register their accredited VTS training organisations with the IALA World-Wide Academy.

12. IALA National members are encouraged to consider joining IALA-NET in accordance with IALA Recommendation E-142 on Maritime Data Sharing 'IALA-NET'.

13. Participants should encourage IMO and IALA to continue their efforts in addressing safety of navigation in all regions by organizing similar activities in the future.

14. Participants will continue sharing information and ideas after the Forum via email.