



MPA
SINGAPORE

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Mr Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General
International Association of Marine Aids to
Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
10 rue des Gaudines
78100 St Germain en Laye
France

Dear *Francis*,

OFFER FROM SINGAPORE TO HOST THE 15TH IALA VTS SYMPOSIUM

I am pleased to inform you of Singapore's offer to host the 15th IALA VTS Symposium in 2024. As a major hub port and a coastal state situated along one of the world's busiest waterways for international shipping, Singapore recognises the importance of establishing common technical standards for VTS and e-Navigation in ensuring safe and efficient vessel transport.

2 Since joining IALA as a National Member in 1973, Singapore has contributed to and played an active role in the 4 IALA technical committees (VTS, ENAV, ARM and ENG), and their respective working groups. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has also co-organised and hosted various IALA workshops and courses such as the 2012 E-NAV workshop, IALA's Risk Management Course in 2015, and the 2017 e-Navigation forum. Following our election to the IALA Council in 2018, Singapore deepened our commitment towards IALA's objectives of harmonising the usage of marine aids to navigation (ATON) worldwide. That same year, MPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IALA, committing S\$1,000,000 to work with IALA's World-Wide Academy from 2019-2023 to enhance IALA National Members' capacity-building and human resource development. More recently in 2019, Singapore also hosted the IALA ENAV23 Committee Meeting and co-organised the IALA-MPA Workshop on Initial Operating Capability (IOC) phase for e-Navigation Services. In addition, Singapore was assigned as the Domain Coordinating Body (DCB), together with Norway and the International Maritime Organization, for the e-Navigation Maritime Services 8 and 16 (MS 8 and 16).



3 In 2000, Singapore, as a National Member, had the privilege of hosting the 9th IALA VTS Symposium, and was honoured to be the first Asian State to ever do so. As a Council Member today, Singapore remains dedicated to facilitating IALA's work in ensuring seafarers worldwide are provided with effective and harmonised ATON. This is especially so for the global e-Navigation and VTS developments. For the 15th IALA VTS Symposium, Singapore intends to build on the outcomes of the 14th IALA VTS Symposium in Rotterdam. If the global maritime industry were to harvest the full potential of digitalisation, like-minded countries and parties have to come together to co-develop a global maritime digital ecosystem – one that is based on interoperability and security. In 2024, we foresee a more mature and developed state of digitalisation in the entire maritime industry, and hosting the IALA VTS Symposium in Singapore will be the catalyst for us all to push towards a fully digitalised maritime future. This would include fully developing MS8 (Vessel Shore Reporting Service) and MS16 (Search and Rescue Service) for VTS authorities and providers, and Singapore, as the DCB, is well-placed to work with member states and industry partners to co-develop these services at the 2024 symposium.

4 Besides being a key maritime nation, Singapore is a thriving cosmopolitan city located in the heart of Asia, with its multi-ethnic landscape boasting a melting pot of diverse cultures and tradition, and with strong transport connectivity to countries and regions around the world.

5 For the above reasons, I am confident that Singapore is the ideal location for the 15th IALA VTS Symposium to take place, and we are committed to hosting a successful and fruitful Symposium. For the 15th IALA VTS Symposium in 2024, Singapore projects a preliminary estimated budget of up to S\$700,000. Besides providing sponsorship opportunities for IALA's Industrial Members, Singapore as an International Maritime Centre, has strong support from a large pool of industry partners, who could be interested in supporting the symposium as well.

6 Singapore remains committed to IALA's mission of safe, expeditious and environmental-friendly vessel travel, and it will be our privilege to host IALA members and other interested parties at the symposium in 2024.

Yours Sincerely,

CAPT. M SEGAR
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (OPERATIONS)
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

