



7 – NATIONAL MATTERS

7.3 – Korea

WORLD MARINE ATON DAY CELEBRATION AND INTERNATIONAL AIDS TO NAVIGATION FORUM

In view of the difficult circumstances that we all continue to experience due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries in association with Korea Institute of Aids to Navigation held the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day celebration in conjunction with the International Aids to Navigation Forum 2020 on November 16, 2020 at the Sejong Convention Center, Sejong City, Korea.

The Ministry celebrated the World Marine AtoN Day in the presence of the Minister MOON Seong-Hyeok, the Secretary-General Kitak LIM of IMO, the Secretary-General Francis ZACHARIAE of IALA, the President of Korea Institute of Aids to Navigation, the Chairman of Korea Lighthouse Cultural Heritage Committee and honored guests as well as 300 AtoN professionals from home and abroad online.

The celebration included official commendations from the Minister and the grand prize award-winning work screening of 2020 Lighthouse Tour Video Contest. The Minister said in his opening speech, “I am very honored to mark the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day, giving us an opportunity to promote greater awareness to mariners and the wider public regarding the crucial role of aids to navigation to facilitate the safe and efficient navigation of vessels and to enhance the protection of the marine environment”. He also emphasized that the enormous wave of changes ushered in by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the COVID-19 pandemic have been transforming the way we live and economic structures.

Secretary-General of IMO, Kitak LIM said in his video congratulatory remarks that cooperation between shipping, ports and aids to navigation will be vital for enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of shipping therefore facilitating trade and fostering economic recovery and prosperity.

Secretary-General of IALA, Francis ZACHARIAE emphasized in his video congratulatory remarks that having knowledge of our history allows us to understand where we are coming from, which in turn allows us to understand our present as well as to create a better future.

In commemoration of World Marine AtoN Day and 2nd anniversary of the 19th IALA Conference, the International Aids to Navigation Forum 2020 on the subject of the lighthouse heritage preservation and sustainable use, and the future smart aids to navigation was held for two and a half hours after the World Marine AtoN Day celebration, joined by 300 participants from 12 countries and sister organizations as well as international guest speakers from Australia, Canada and France.

The Forum provided a unique international platform for exchange of ideas and experiences amongst researchers, practitioners and regulators in the aids to navigation field. The Forum conducted 7 oral presentations and 2 sessions of comprehensive discussions, which focus on the fields of lighthouse heritage and future aids to navigation. These presentations offered solutions to problems, utilized case studies, identified knowledge gaps, and discussed broader applications.



RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Korea was one of the first countries in the world to be heavily affected by COVID-19. In response to the outbreak in the country, the government implemented a robust, nationwide response, built on intensive testing and contact tracing, medical care for affected people and a clear public information campaign while implementing less stringent national social distancing measures than other countries. This response, drawing on lessons learned from past outbreaks and the advice and support of WHO, brought the epidemic under control and demonstrated the importance of adherence to proven public health measures.

The Korean government continues to keep seamlessly the function of aids to navigations and VTS without any interruption to ensure the safety of navigation, reduction of marine accidents, increased safety of life and property at sea, as well as the protection of the marine environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has taken all protective measures to maintain continuity and efficiency of all functions. The measures taken include making a face mask compulsory during their duties, flexible working arrangements, minimization of staff at the office and working from home.

All the governmental workspaces, which are legally responsible for the provision, maintenance and operation of national marine aids to navigation and VTS. It also allows the public to have access to the National Lighthouse Museum and open-air spaces on 34 manned lighthouses under the condition that they follow quarantine guidelines.



Annex. Photos from World Marine AtoN Celebration and International Forum 2020



Opening Speech by the Minister



Official Commendation from the Minister



Congratulatory Remarks by IMO SG



Congratulatory Remarks by IALA SG



International Aids to Navigation Forum (Session1)



International Aids to Navigation Forum (Session3)