

IALA COUNCIL 73rd session



8, 9 and 10 June 2021
Video conference

11.1 – WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY PROGRESS REPORT

1. STRATEGY – GETTING ALL COASTAL STATES ONBOARD.

The IALA World-Wide Academy focuses on facilitating the effective implementation of IALA standards, recommendations, guidelines and model courses by coastal States through education, training and capacity building thereby underpinning the second strategic goal of IALA.

The Academy aims to ensure that all coastal States can fulfil the obligations related to marine aids to navigation placed upon them in SOLAS Chapter V and that all coastal States can claim conformance with the relevant IALA standards.

To achieve these goals, the Academy undertakes a wide range of activities based on three simple and, by now, well known principles:

① ENLIGHTEN

raise the awareness of high-level decision makers of their international obligations relating to safety of navigation;

② EDUCATE

provide a suite of relevant education and training opportunities for as many as possible; and

③ ENGAGE

pursue long-term capacity building activities with coastal States and provide advice on how to overcome challenges.

In support of the United Nations Delivering as One approach, the Academy cooperates with and coordinates its activities with other international organizations, underpinning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

2. ENLIGHTENING – RAISING THE AWARENESS OF HIGH-LEVEL DECISION MAKERS.

Despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy has remained active throughout the first half of 2021 in the promotion of the SOLAS requirements related to both Aids to Navigation and Vessel Traffic Services and the benefits of implementing the IALA standards.

In 2020 the Academy developed a webinar concept aimed at enlightening, educating and engaging individuals world-wide. This concept continues to evolve, and currently a series of VTS related webinars is being delivered. It is believed that the webinar concept is here to stay and will be a central part of the awareness programme of the Academy. In 2020 a total of 681 individuals were engaged in events organized by the Academy.

Contact has remained strong with sister organisations, particularly the IMO and other organizations who are part of the United Nations “Delivering as One” partnership. The Academy has continued to be represented at various regional hydrographic commissions which have been conducted online.



Once IALA transforms into an intergovernmental organization, the six official languages of the United Nations will be used. Currently the Academy operates primarily in English and French but in 2020 the newly developed Spanish Support Team concept matured significantly, and it is envisaged that the translation of IALA publications into Spanish can now be accelerated.

3. EDUCATING – PROVIDING EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITY TO MANY

The Academy has made significant progress in the development and modernization of its suite of online training programmes. Work to modernize and refresh the popular Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager and Level 1.3 IALA Risk Management Tools programmes is in its final phase. This includes new and interactive learning materials for online and distance learning using modern software as well as the redevelopment of the course materials used by accredited training organizations including the new suite of textbooks for the Aids to Navigation Manager course.

Further investment has been made in developing the IALA Learning Management System to provide an enhanced digital learning platform both for participants studying through online distance learning as well as to provide a resource to accredited training organizations.

The courses related to the IALA Risk Management Tools have been completely redesigned to enable more focus to be given to each of the tools. This enables participants to select the tools that are of maximum practical benefit for their individual operational needs through making the course modular in nature. In late 2020, a pilot course commenced with the State Hydrographic Service of the Ukraine to train them in risk assessment using the IWRAP Mk2 tool. The new modular style courses have received positive feedback and are now available through online distance learning.

In terms of practical implementation, the Academy has continued to develop its proactive relationship with the ASEAN Regional Training Centre for VTS in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Academy has continued to actively participate in the ASEAN VTS Expert Group and has supported their planning to recommence VTS training as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The Academy continues to expand its training offering and a major milestone was the creation of a new course on the principles of effective procurement. This course covers content such as the preparation of business cases, specifications and tenders in a manner consistent with best industry practice and taking account of the relevant IALA standards.

The pandemic has enabled a new way of working and facilitated the effective combination of the enlightenment and education limbs of the Academy strategy. This was effectively demonstrated with a project with the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport in Somalia. During consultations on the planned reinstatement of aids to navigation in the port of Mogadishu it was identified that training in both risk management and procurement would be beneficial to supplement the skills of the three IALA qualified Marine Aids to Navigation managers in the country.

Through conducting both simultaneous capacity building and education programmes online, the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport were able to complete a risk assessment using the IALA Simplified Risk Assessment method and prepare for procuring the necessary aids to navigation infrastructure through piloting the newly developed procurement training.

The importance of maintaining close contact with the global network of accredited training organizations must not be underestimated. The Academy was pleased to provide support to the Pacific Community (SPC) in their application to gain accreditation for the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager course as a formally recognized micro qualification in the Pacific region. Such accreditation and international recognition will significantly enhance the professional status of Marine Aids to Navigation Managers and the IALA standards framework in general.



4. ENGAGING – PURSUING LONG-TERM CAPACITY BUILDING

Due to the pandemic, the programme of capacity building activities, which normally relies heavily on face-to-face contact and on-site activities has been severely disrupted. However, contact has been maintained with all coastal State partners where missions or other activities were scheduled with a view to the early resumption of activities when the situation permits safe travel or to undertake online activities as an alternative.

Technical Needs Assessment Missions to Haiti took place early in 2020. And an officer from Haiti is currently studying for the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager qualification and the next step will be a risk assessment course. Haiti is now an active member of IALA.

In 2020 the primary sponsors have stood by the Academy and maintained their generous support which is appreciated by all those who utilize the services of the Academy. The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues.

5. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided in this report.