



Circular Letter 2023/08

27 June 2023

Subject: Invitation to the Conference on the draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, Tokyo 7 to 10 November 2023

To: National members of IALA, Signatory States and Acceding States

Dear All,

With reference to IALA Circular Letter 2023/06 of 17 April 2023, I have the honour to invite you to a Conference on the draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations in Tokyo 7 to 10 November 2023 at the Tokyo Garden Terrace Kioi Conference Centre.

Background

As you are aware the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) will change status to an Intergovernmental Organization once the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (the Convention) enters into force.

The text of the Convention was agreed upon at the Diplomatic Conference in Kuala Lumpur in February 2020. The initial signing ceremony of the Convention was held on 27 January 2021 in Paris and, as depositary State of the Convention, France was the first State to sign the Convention.

This ceremony marked the opening for signature of the Convention for a period of one year. All Member States of the United Nations, and in particular the signatories of the Final Act of the Kuala Lumpur Conference, were invited to sign the Convention at the Protocol of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and then to proceed to its ratification.

During the signature period 50 States have signed the Convention and as of today 22 States have ratified, accepted, approved, or acceded to the Convention. The Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.



Organization of the Conference

In accordance with the Convention Article 7 (c) the General Assembly will “Review and approve the General Regulations of the Organization”, which will now be prepared at a Conference generously hosted by Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo. The draft regulations will then be submitted for approval to the first General Assembly of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation when it is established as an Intergovernmental Organization.

Provision has been made for a four-day Conference to be held from Tuesday 7 November to Friday 10 November 2023.

Due to the capacity of the venue, the National members, Signatory States and Acceding States who intend to participate are kindly requested to limit the numbers of the participants to two, unless there is a need for three owing to exceptional reasons.

The opening session of the Conference will take place at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 7 November 2023. This will be preceded by an informal meeting of the Heads of Delegation at 9.30 a.m.

The provisional Agenda (GR-1.1) and the proposal for the organization of the Conference and the timetable of the Conference (GR-2.1) are enclosed herewith.

The Conference will use as the basis for its deliberations the text of the draft General Regulations, including Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (GR-3.1/GR-3.2).

These drafts together with other documents for the Conference will be available on the dedicated place on the IALA web site: <https://www.iala-aism.org/meetings/conference-on-the-general-and-financial-regulations-of-the-igo/>

Submission of documents

Participating delegations are invited to communicate any comments, observations, or suggestions that they may have to be received as soon as possible and, in any case not later than 15 October 2023 to enable their circulation to Governments and organizations invited to the Conference for their consideration.

Registration and Security

Participants are required to register prior to the Conference opening date details about their representatives using the IALA web site registration: <https://www.iala-aism.org/product/conference-on-the-general-and-financial-regulations-of-the-igo/>

All delegates will also be required, at registration, to show their passport or identity card.

An invitation from the Japan Coast Guard for visa purposes and a list of hotels close to the venue are attached to this letter. Further information related to the organization of the Conference will be made available on the website.



Seminar on Safety of navigation

It is planned to host a World-Wide Academy seminar on Safety of Navigation the day before the Conference the 6 November 2023. All delegates are invited to attend. Please make an online registration to the event using the following link: <https://www.iala-aism.org/product/wwa-seminar-on-safety-of-navigation/>

Should you have any questions related to the conference or the change of status, please contact the Secretariat at Lorraine.mbong@iala-aism.org.

I look very much forward to seeing you in Tokyo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Zachariae'.

Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General