

IALA COUNCIL
2nd session**9 June - 13 June 2025****7 - NATIONAL MATTERS (REPUBLIC OF KOREA)****National Matters - Republic of Korea****1. Establishment of the 3rd Master Plan for Aids to Navigation (2025-2029)**

Korea's Master Plan for Aids to Navigation is the highest-level statutory plan in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN), established every five years under Article 6 of the Aids to Navigation Act. Its primary objective is to ensure a safe and efficient maritime traffic environment.

To proactively respond to the evolving conditions of maritime traffic and advancements in technology, and to redefine the policy direction for the AtoN sector, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has formulated the 3rd Master Plan for Aids to Navigation (2025–2029). This plan sets out the vision and objectives for national AtoN policy over the next five years, placing particular emphasis on ensuring sustainability. In particular, the plan reorganizes major initiatives to reflect various changes in the environment, such as increased maritime traffic volume, technological advancements, and the transition to digitalization since the establishment of the 2nd Master Plan (2015-2024).

Through this plan, Korea aims to develop AtoN into a core infrastructure for collecting and providing digital maritime information, thereby delivering safer and more reliable maritime traffic information to the public. Furthermore, Korea intends to expand the role of AtoN to contribute to the advancement of marine culture.

The establishment of the 3rd Master Plan for Aids to Navigation is expected to serve as an important foundation for realizing a safe and sustainable maritime traffic environment in Korea.

2. Implementation of the Act on the Conservation and Utilization of Lighthouse Heritage

For over 120 years, Korea has supported the safe navigation of vessels through its network of lighthouses, which today have also become prominent marine tourism attractions, visited by more than 3.78 million people annually.

In order to preserve the historical and cultural value of lighthouses and utilize them as sustainable marine tourism resources, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries enacted the Act on the Conservation and Utilization of Lighthouse Heritage in January 2024, followed by the

enactment of its Enforcement Decree and Enforcement Rule in January 2025. These measures specify the provisions delegated by the Act and mark an important step toward its full implementation, laying the groundwork for the effective promotion of lighthouse heritage policies.

Through the full implementation of the regulations, Korea has further strengthened the foundation for the systematic preservation and management of lighthouse heritage, while actively promoting lighthouses as accessible marine cultural and tourism resources for the public.

In particular, these policy efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.4, which calls for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. Korea remains committed to promoting the historical and cultural value of lighthouses globally and to ensuring that future generations can appreciate and benefit from this heritage through continuous and systematic management.

3. Accreditation as a World-Wide Academy(WWA) Training Organization

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conducted the accreditation process and on-site evaluation of the Korea Institute of Aids to Navigation, a public institute under its jurisdiction. As a result, the Institute was officially authorized to operate the Aids to Navigation Manager Course (Level 1.1) and the Aids to Navigation Master Management Course (Level 1.2) for a period of five years, from April 2025 to April 2030.

Since 2011, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has been providing specialized training programs for the development of AtoN professionals through the Institute, operating 32 programs over 14 years and producing a total of approximately 5,000 trainees to date.

Through this WWA accreditation, Korea has established the foundation to provide training for AtoN officials and experts worldwide, and plans to further strengthen its role as a regional training hub for the Asia-Pacific region under IALA.

In particular, Korea will continue its efforts to enhance trainees' practical capabilities through a structured curriculum, field-oriented training programs, and a variety of site visits to AtoN facilities, with the aim of cultivating internationally competent AtoN professionals.

4. 2025 World Marine Aids to Navigation Day

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries plans to host the 2025 World Marine Aids to Navigation Day on July 2 on Jeju Island, under the theme "Aids to Navigation - Successful Voyages, Sustainable Planet." Jeju Island, located off the southern coast of Korea, is renowned for its unique natural landscapes listed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site and its rich marine cultural heritage.

At the event, Korea will present its future vision for AtoN, including the preservation and utilization of lighthouses, the development of AtoN information systems, and advancements

in high-precision maritime PNT technologies. In addition to honoring individuals who have contributed to the advancement of AtoN, the celebration will feature various side programs, including the Lighthouse Photography Contest awards, commemorative performances, and celebratory concerts.

As part of the celebrations, the 7th International Aids to Navigation Forum will be held on July 1 under the theme "Heritage Delivered by Light, Innovation Opening the Sea Routes." The forum will feature three sessions, including a special session, and offer an opportunity to explore the future direction of AtoN in response to changes in the marine environment and advancements in technology. It will also provide a platform to examine the historical evolution of lighthouses and to discuss the cultural and technical significance of AtoN in depth.

The occasion is expected to serve as a meaningful venue for international cooperation and discussion, encompassing maritime safety, technological innovation, and cultural heritage, while laying a foundation for education and engagement with future generations.