

Statement of the Credentials for the Representation to the Council

Rear-Admiral AWAI Tsuguo, Special Advisor to the Japan Coast Guard (JCG), has assumed the responsibility of IALA Councilor for Japan since the 69th session in 2020. He has led a wide range of international activities of the JCG with his comprehensive knowledge and experience, not only in coast guard services but also in international maritime fields to cover the policy and technology aspects.

After being commissioned as a JCG officer in 1984, Rear-Admiral AWAI spent most of the professional career in the JCG technical service sector, including as a radio officer on board five ships at different ranks. Notably, he was assigned as the technical officer (P-3) of the Maritime Safety Division of the IMO Secretariat from 1989 to 1992, working on SOLAS/GMDSS implementation and technical cooperation. Since then, he has continuously engaged in the wide-ranging international relations services of the JCG, including IMO, COSPAS-SARSAT, IALA matters, Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), etc., and further improved his understanding of modern international maritime laws. As such, he is well versed in wide-ranging maritime engineering matters including radiocommunication, radionavigation, Aids to Navigation, VTS, hydrography, aeronautical technology and maritime intelligence.

His recent activities in the Asia-Pacific MDA School in cooperation with the UNODC as head of the Maritime Information Fusion Center since 2022 and as the program coordinator of the JCG-led ASEAN VTS operator training program in Malaysia since 2018, are examples of contributions for regional capacity building for maritime safety and security. He has also assisted in multiple international seminars/symposiums dealing with MASS and VDES as a facilitator or panelist. As such, he has been the key responsible person in the JCG for VDES matters to bridge public and private sectors for harmonizing and promoting international VDES implementation and played significant roles in the overall VDES program in Japan.

With the outstanding expertise and experience in the maritime sector as above, he will undoubtedly play an important role as before, to contribute to IALA activities which will be ever more critical as IALA changes its status.



Rear-Admiral AWAI Tsuguo

IALA Councilor for Japan

Special Advisor to the Japan Coast Guard

Director, Int'l Maritime Security Program Group

Japan Coast Guard