

## **Statement of the Credentials of Candidacy for Election to the Council of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation**

The Government of Japan has honor to make a statement of the credentials of candidacy for election to the Council of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation in February 2025.

The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) has been a national member of IALA since 1959 and a Council member since 1975. Throughout the long history of its contribution to IALA, the JCG has played various important roles in the world Aids to Navigation community, in particular at the following IALA activities, but not limited to:

- In 1980, the JCG hosted the 10th IALA Conference in Tokyo, the first IALA Conference in Asia, that adopted the IALA Maritime Buoyage System, which since then served as the fundamental infrastructure of the world maritime traffic system;
- In 2009, the JCG proposed a new work item to IMO on development of policy and new symbols for AIS Aids to Navigation and led the work as the coordinator of the IMO NAV Correspondence Group of the work. The policy (MSC.1/Circ.1473) and the symbols (SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.1) are now referred to as the basic documents for the use of AIS Aids to Navigation;
- In 2013, Mr. NOGUCHI Hideki was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the IALA e-Navigation (ENAV) Committee and as the Chair of the Committee in 2016. Since then, he has led the implementation of e-Navigation and digitalization of maritime communication through the work of the Committee. In 2023, the ENAV Committee was renamed the Digital Technology (DTEC) Committee, and he continues to take leadership in this field;
- In 2016, the JCG hosted the first IALA Workshop on the development of VHF Data Exchange System (VDES), which was expected to become the next-gen maritime radiocommunication system to implement e-Navigation and to modernize the GMDSS;
- In 2017, the JCG established the ASEAN Regional Training Center for VTS operators in cooperation with the Marine Department of Malaysia which was the first, and still is the only regional training center for VTS in the world and thus became the model of regional capacity building scheme in the world Aids to Navigation community;

- In 2021, the JCG proposed a new work item to amend the SOLAS Convention to introduce VDES and to develop its performance standards with Singapore and Norway. The proposal was approved by MSC103 in May 2021 and the discussion starts from NCSR10 in May 2023;
- In 2021, the JCG hosted the IALA Workshop on MASS online due to COVID. This workshop became the first opportunity for all IALA Committees to find the impact of MASS on Aids to Navigation and start developing IALA documents for MASS;
- In 2021, Japan accepted the Convention on International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation and became the 3rd Member State to the Convention;
- In February 2023, the JCG hosted the IALA Workshop on Digital Maritime Communication in Tokyo. The aim of this workshop was to share perspective and knowledge of current and future digital technologies such as VDES, S-100 for implementation; and,
- In November 2023, the JCG hosted the Conference on the draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation in Tokyo, where the draft general regulation and financial regulation, that are essential for the new organization, were developed.

As shown in the above-mentioned history, the JCG has contributed to IALA and the world Aids to Navigation community as one of the top countries in the digitalization of Aids to Navigation service through activities in IALA and IMO. Should Japan be elected as the member of the Council in the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, it will make the utmost effort to contribute to the development and harmonization of the world Marine Aids to Navigation through the success of IALA activities.