

11 – IALA World-Wide Academy

11.1.2 – WWA – Drivers and Trends

World-Wide Academy Drivers and Trends

This document is aimed at providing a short overview of the main challenges faced by the World-Wide Academy. These issues were discussed during the first meeting of the newly nominated (Council n° 1 last February in Singapore) Advisory Board on 9th of April 2025.

As the background, the benefits and responsibilities of the Academy under the IGO status of IALA are to be emphasized. This status confers greater legitimacy and enhances, inter alia, the Academy's capacity to conduct capacity-building missions. It also opens avenues for increased and more diverse voluntary contributions, including in-kind support, seconded officers, and the potential to secure additional sponsorship. Conversely, the IGO status necessitates heightened governance and transparency, along with the adoption of a diplomatic and neutral stance in engagements with coastal states worldwide.

1. RESSOURCES

Under the leadership of successive deans, the Academy has been a great success with an ever-increasing level of activity and genuine recognition from coastal States and partner organizations.

From now on, the Academy gathers 4 full time positions, instead of 2,5 last year. The Dean is assisted by three staff members: Mrs. Gérardine Delanoye, Capacity Building Manager; Ms. Latifa Oumouzoune, Education and Training Manager; and recruited last year Mr. Jaime Alvarez, Development and Project Manager.

As regards the budget for 2025, there is no major change regarding the expected revenue in 2025 amounting to 1.102.000 euros. As a result, the expected available funds for 2025 amount to 1.377.000 euros, of which 224.000 euros are a reserve from 2024. However, there is an expected increase in the expenditures up to 1.377.000 euros mainly due to a high level of activity and the increase in mass salary (newly appointed full time Dean and Project manager).

Clearly, as an effective and successful player in capacity building, the academy is able to maintain its level of activity thanks to the financial reserves accumulated in previous years. Since these remaining funds will be full consumed this year, the insufficient amount of running sponsorships may have an adverse effect on Academy operations if no further resources are gained.



2.2. RUNNING OF THE ACADEMY

The overall staffing structure remains fragile and vulnerable as there is no back up for the main Academy functions. The good point is that the operations can rely on an excellent set of external consultants which continue to play a critical role, particularly in engineering courses and delivering lectures. These consultants, the most competent and involved of them being annually contracted, deliver high-expertise tasks that require advanced technical knowledge.

However, the volume of routine administrative duties and daily operational responsibilities continues to detract permanent staff and consultants as well from the Academy's ability to focus on strategic planning and core engineering functions. Considering these challenges, there is a clear need for strengthening the Academy workforce with a priority of hiring an administrative staff as back office once solved the current budgetary constraints.

As regards internal management procedures and policies, setting up a new framework is therefore relevant not only to improve operational efficiency but also to uphold principles of transparency and equity. This revised framework should include a clearly defined set of instructions to be shared with the IALA Secretariat, particularly concerning the scope and modalities of participant sponsorship for World-Wide Academy (WWA) events, as well as the logistics needs and charges associated with WWA activities in countries, or the tuition fees.

2.3. OPERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Training on risk management remains a crucial and increasingly prioritized area, reflecting the need for robust safety and operational strategies. This fundamental knowledge according to the texts in force has seen its importance renewed by the publication of the new IMO Resolution 1158 on VTS.

There is a growing demand for training aligned with Level 1.2, Master of AtoN, which signifies a higher level of maturity and professionalism within the sector. In line with this, the governance of AtoN

The Academy is to expand its training offerings and explore new modalities of delivery of technical assistance; beyond training, some countries wish to benefit from follow up advice when applying their newly acquired knowledge, even as for specific and concrete use case.

In short, the Academy is faced with a twofold challenge that may expand significantly its range of services: firstly, to continue to meet the needs of governments in terms of capacity building which require ground knowledge; on the other hand, the push toward digitalization, including the adoption of S-100 and S-200 standards, underscores the Academy's commitment to staying at the forefront of technological innovation. The emergence of new and more diversified needs requires higher level of service. Ultimately the Academy's ability to "move upmarket", produce a slightly more bespoke catalogue and stay credible is being addressed.

Emphasis is also placed on promoting a regional approach to enhance efficiency and foster dialogue among neighbouring countries. Strengthened cooperation with sister organizations—such as IMO, IHO, and IOC—as well as regional bodies, supports a "Deliver as One" approach, enhancing coherence and effectiveness in capacity-building for coastal states.

THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note this document.