

**IALA COUNCIL  
3rd Session**



**8-12 December 2025  
Mumbai, India**

**14. – CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER EVENTS**

***14.3 – World Marine Aids to Navigation Day***

**14.3.1 WATON Day 2026**

Note by the Secretariat

**INTRODUCTION**

The celebration of the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day (WAtON) held on 1st July 2025 was again a great success. The event was celebrated world-wide by many IALA Members and it was a pleasure to see the IALA Family Spirit in action across the globe.

Special thanks go to The Northern Lighthouse Board and Trinity House for hosting the main event this year in London, United Kingdom, and making wonderful arrangements for the occasion.

Carrying on the enthusiasm shown for this year's event, the secretariat sent a Circular letter to IALA Member States and Associate Members on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, inviting them to submit their proposals for a venue for the next main event. The WAtON Day 2026 will be based on the theme "Marine Aids to Navigation for a Successful Voyage and a Sustainable Planet".

All IALA members will be invited to attend.

The deadline for proposals was 27th October 2025.

By this date, the Secretariat has received two official offers and expressions of interest to host the 2026 World Marine Aids to Navigation Day main event :

- From the Republic of Korea. The event is expected to coincide with the relocation of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to Busan (the nation's maritime capital) and the opening of a permanent exhibition for the historical UK lighthouse lens at the National Lighthouse Museum. In this context, the Republic of Korea emphasizes that hosting the 2026 WAtON Day would hold great symbolic value and provide an excellent opportunity to further strengthen international collaboration among IALA Members.
- From Georgia. The event would take place in Batumi, located on the Black Sea coast, a city that has historically served as a gateway for trade, navigation, and international cooperation. Today, Batumi continues to embody this maritime legacy through its dynamic port, advanced infrastructure, and growing role as a regional center for maritime affairs. The city combines a rich maritime heritage with contemporary facilities, excellent connectivity, and renowned hospitality. Georgia emphasizes that hosting the 2026 WAtON Day would provide a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the promotion of innovation in aids to navigation.



Official offers are attached in Annexes.

Qatar have also expressed interest in hosting the main event; however, no official offer has been submitted to date.

**THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO**

**NOTE** the information provided in this document and **APPROVE** one proposal to host the main event of the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day in 2026, and the second one for the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day in 2027.