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17. Any other business

Paper for consideration by the Council

Establishment of the IALA Award for Excellence in Marine Aids to Navigation

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Summary

This paper proposes the establishment of an IALA Award for Excellence in Marine Aids to Navigation, to be granted periodically to individuals, institutions or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievements and long-lasting contributions to maritime safety, efficiency and sustainability through Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and related services.

Background

Since its transformation into an International Organization in 2024, IALA has further strengthened its role as a global leader in the promotion of safe, efficient, and sustainable navigation through harmonization of the worldwide marine aids to navigation. Throughout its history, IALA has benefitted from the exceptional contributions of Member States, organizations, and professionals who have advanced the field of AtoN through innovation, service and international cooperation.

To formally recognize these contributions and to encourage excellence within the maritime community, it is timely to establish a formal IALA Award. Such an award would celebrate excellence, vision and impact in the field of AtoN and related services, while reinforcing IALA's leadership and visibility as an International Organization dedicated to maritime safety and sustainability.

Proposal

It is proposed that IALA establish the IALA Award for Excellence in Marine Aids to Navigation, to be:

- Granted periodically (e.g. annually or biennially) in conjunction with major IALA events such as Conferences or Symposia.
- Awarded to individuals, institutions or organizations worldwide that have demonstrated:
 - Outstanding achievements in AtoN or related services;
 - Significant and lasting contributions to maritime safety and efficiency;
 - Innovations that support sustainable and future-oriented navigation.
- Selected through a transparent nomination and evaluation process, coordinated by the IALA Secretariat and overseen by the Council.

Objectives

- To recognize excellence and innovation in the development, implementation, or management of marine aids to navigation.
- To highlight visionary leadership and initiatives that have had a measurable impact on the safety and efficiency of navigation worldwide.
- To encourage best practices and knowledge sharing across the IALA community.
- To strengthen IALA's visibility and reputation as a standard-setting international organization.

Eligibility

The Award shall be open to:

- Individuals with a proven record of exceptional contribution to the advancement of AtoN or related fields.
- Organizations, institutions or agencies that have implemented pioneering projects, policies or technologies with demonstrable global or regional impact.

Award Criteria

Candidates will be assessed on the following:

- Impact: tangible improvements in navigational safety, efficiency or sustainability.
- Innovation: introduction of new concepts, methods or technologies with wide application potential.
- Leadership: demonstration of vision, dedication and influence within the maritime community.
- Sustainability: contributions aligned with environmental responsibility and long-term resilience of navigation.

Frequency and Process

- The Award shall be presented on an annual or biennial basis, ideally during the IALA Conference or General Assembly.
- Nominations may be submitted by IALA Member States, Affiliate Members, Industry or recognized partner organizations.
- An Award Committee, appointed by the Council, would evaluate submissions and make recommendations for approval.

Benefits

- Provides a prestigious recognition for exceptional contributions in the field of AtoN.
- Reinforces IALA's visibility and credibility as an International Organization that fosters excellence.
- Encourages continued cooperation, and commitment within the maritime community.
- Strengthens engagement and recognition among IALA Members and stakeholders.

Conclusion

The establishment of the IALA Award for Excellence in Marine Aids to Navigation will provide a lasting and prestigious mechanism to recognize exceptional achievements and long-term contributions to maritime safety, efficiency and sustainability. By honouring individuals, institutions and organizations that exemplify innovation and excellence, IALA will further

consolidate its role as a leading International Organization committed to the modernization and advancement of AtoN systems worldwide.

Council is invited to:

1. Approve in principle the establishment of the IALA Award for Excellence in Marine Aids to Navigation.
2. Decide on the periodicity (e.g. annual or biennial) and the form of the award/recognition (e.g. certificate, plaque, trophy)
3. Task the Secretariat with preparing detailed rules and procedures for nomination, selection and presentation.
4. Establish an Award Committee to oversee the evaluation and selection process.
5. Consider aligning the launch of the first Award with a major IALA event.
6. Decide on the funding mechanism to support the Award's establishment and continuity.