

The People's Republic of China
Maritime Safety Administration



Application to Host the 5th IALA Council Session in Guangzhou, China

1. Background

It has been 41 years since China joined the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) in 1984. China has been a continuous member of the IALA Council since 1994. In 2006, CHINA MSA successfully hosted the 16th IALA Conference in Shanghai and held the IALA Presidency from 2006 to 2010. In 2018, CHINA MSA co-organized the IALA ENAV Working Group Meeting and VDES Seminar with IALA, which was attended by nearly 70 participants from over 20 countries and regions. In 2025, *IALA International Seminar on Heritage Lighthouse Protection 2025* was successfully held in China.

As a member of the IALA Council, China remains committed to actively participating in IALA affairs, enhancing cooperation with all Member States under the IALA framework, and continuing its unwavering efforts towards realizing the strategic vision of the Organization.

2. Application

To further deepen cooperation with IALA and the global AtoN community, and in accordance with Article 7.6 of the IALA General Regulations,

CHINA MSA hereby applies to host the 5th IALA Council Session in Guangzhou, China, in December 2026. This application has received full authorization and official support from the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China.

3. Host City Profile

Guangzhou is a vital national central city and an international comprehensive transport hub in China, boasting profound historical and cultural heritage. The Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is one of China's three major international aviation hubs, with a global flight network offering convenient international access for attendees.

Situated at the mouth of the Pearl River, Guangzhou is a millennia-old commercial metropolis and a world-class port city. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, centered around Guangzhou, hosts one of the world's busiest port clusters (including the ports of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong). CHINA MSA is actively advancing the construction of the Pearl River Delta Smart Waterway AtoN Service Demonstration Zone in this region, where smart AtoN practices are highly active.

Guangzhou possesses multiple world-class conference centers and high-end hotel clusters, with a proven track record of successfully hosting numerous major international conferences and events. It is fully capable of providing world-class conference facilities and services for the IALA Council Session.

4. Key Commitments and Assurance

Should the Council decide to hold this session in Guangzhou, CHINA MSA will work closely with the IALA Secretariat to provide comprehensive support. We will strictly adhere to the provisions of the IALA Convention and the IALA General Regulations, offer positive assistance to all representatives attending the Council Session, and ensure the smooth conduct of the meeting.

5. The Council is requested to

NOTE the information provided in this document and decide the location of the 5th IALA Council Session.