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National Matters - CHILE

L1.2 Master of Marine Aids to Navigation Management Course

Between 28 July and 01 August of this year, in cooperation with the IALA World-Wide Academy, DIRECTEMAR delivered the first IALA L1.2 Master of Marine Aids to Navigation Management Course conducted in the Americas and in Spanish. The course was attended by 24 students from 11 countries.

Training Curriculum for Lighthouse Specialist Personnel

During 2025, the professional profile and training curriculum for the Chilean Navy's Lighthouse Specialist Seafarers were updated under the Competency-Based Education Model (MEDOC, Spanish acronym), which applies a training methodology that defines the competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) to be acquired by trainees.

This update incorporated the content and skills established in the various IALA Model Courses Level 2 for Technicians.

It should be noted that Chile has approximately 120 Lighthouse Specialists, who undergo one year of training at the Naval Polytechnic Academy.

Regional Seminar on Aids to Navigation

At the invitation of the Hydrographic Service of the Argentine Navy, on 2 July, the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day was commemorated with the second Regional Seminar on Aids to Navigation in Latin America, which was attended by delegations from eight countries of the region.

On this occasion, the Chilean Navy Liaison Officer in Argentina participated as a speaker. Among other topics, he highlighted the national context regarding Chile's participation in IALA activities, the upgrading and maintenance of national aids to navigation, and the progress in institutional personnel training in accordance with the IALA guidelines.

Construction of Monumental Lighthouse in the Chilean Antarctic Territory

This year, on Deception Island in the Chilean Antarctic Territory, the Monumental Lighthouse Piloto Pardo was built. Deception Island is a remote horseshoe-shaped volcanic island located at the beginning of the Antarctic Peninsula, the interior of which features a navigable area known as Port Foster. It is currently one of the most important tourist destinations in that area, welcoming more than 15,000 visitors per year.

Beyond its primary function of providing safety to navigation, the lighthouse was erected in memory of the rescue of 46 people, both British and Chilean, following the volcanic eruptions of 1967 and 1969, and also in honour of the feat of the Chilean Officer Luis Pardo and his crew who, in 1916, aboard the Cutter Yelcho, rescued 22 crew members of the British vessel Endurance, led by explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, on Elephant Island in the same territory.

Given the remoteness of the area and its rapidly changing weather conditions, the following Chilean Navy assets were deployed for the construction: 01 helicopter, 01 ship and 10 lighthouse specialists on site. Likewise, all pertinent measures were taken in accordance with international regulations in order to mitigate the environmental impact on the flora and fauna of this important region of the world.

The lighthouse consists of a 6-meter coastal-type fiberglass tower, a lantern with a nominal range of 16 nm, and an AIS AtoN Type 3 device, all installed at an elevation of 550 metres at the entrance, or mouth, of the island's ring, in the area known as Neptune's Bellows.