

**IALA COUNCIL
4th Session****8-11 June 2026
HQ, France****14. – CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER EVENTS*****14.4 – World Marine Aids to Navigation Day*****14.4.1 World Marine Aids to Navigation Day, Busan, Republic of Korea**

Note by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

At the 3rd session the IALA Council agreed to have the WATON Day main event in Busan, Republic of Korea. The event will be hosted from Wednesday 15th to Thursday 16th July by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea. The celebrations will take place at the Paradise Hotel Busan.

All IALA members are invited to attend. The Secretariat is promoting the event on the web site and on social media.

An official event website for information and registrations is currently under preparation and is scheduled to launch on May 1, 2026.

The provisional program is as follows:

DAY 1 – Wednesday, July 15

The forum officially commences with a gathering of experts at the Paradise Hotel Busan (14:00–18:00) to redefine the historical value of maritime heritage and explore sustainable roles for the future.

AtoN in the Age of AI: Discussing the future direction and strategic evolution of Marine Aids to Navigation in response to the era of artificial intelligence.

Cultural & Artistic Synergy: Utilizing lighthouse heritage as global maritime cultural content and exploring its artistic applications.

Launch of the Asia-Pacific Lighthouse Route (APLR): Establishing a heritage network among Asia-Pacific nations to preserve maritime culture and revitalize sustainable marine tourism through regional cooperation.

DAY 2 – Thursday, July 16

The official IALA World Lighthouse Day Ceremony will be held at the Paradise Hotel Busan (10:00–12:00) with participation of the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea and the Secretary-General



of IALA. This ceremony serves as a global platform to share a vision for maritime safety and to honor the legacy of lighthouse heritage.

Following the ceremony, an **Official Luncheon** (12:00–13:30) will be hosted at the Paradise Hotel Busan to strengthen international partnerships among national delegations and maritime experts.

In the afternoon, the **Opening of the UK Lighthouse Lens Exhibition** will take place at the National Lighthouse Museum, Pohang (15:00–16:00). This marks the first public unveiling of historical UK lighthouse lenses in Korea, with the presence of the British Ambassador and the Trinity House delegation.

Transportation from Busan to Pohang will be provided for designated participants.

Yeongdo Lighthouse Experience (14:00–17:00)

In parallel with the afternoon itinerary, an exclusive tour of Yeongdo Lighthouse, designated as **Korea's "2026 Lighthouse of the Year,"** will be offered. Participants are invited to explore this iconic maritime cultural space and its breathtaking coastal surroundings.

This program is available as an alternative to the Pohang visit for interested participants.

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

NOTE the information provided in this document and consider sending representatives to Busan for the celebration. Council is also invited to consider celebrating the WAtON Day locally and on social media and publicise pictures etc. on the special page on the IALA web site.