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Technical Domain / Task Number 2 Training

Author(s) / Submitter(s) GEOCUBA Estudios Marinos, Cuba

Qualification and Basic Knowledge Course for Light Keepers

# Summary

This document summarizes GEOCUBA Estudios Marinos’ recent experience on the preparation and delivery of its first Qualification and Basic Knowledge Course for Lighthouse Keepers, reaffirming the will of the Hydrographic and Geodetic Service of the Republic of Cuba to provide for this category of personnel the general elements of the theoretical-practical training necessary to reach or maintain the minimum levels of competence to perform the activities inherent to the light keeper position.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to inform the IALA Secretariat and Members about the successful completion of the first edition of the Qualification and Basic Knowledge Course for Lighthouse Keepers, as part of the actions designed by GEOCUBA Estudios Marinos to train keepers in the set of theoretical and practical knowledge that they require to face the tasks of operation, maintenance, repair and protection of these facilities of high value both for national and international navigation as well as heritage and to certify this category of personnel to perform their duties in the national territory.

## Related documents

* S1050 – Training and Certification;
* R0141 (E-141) Training and Certification of Marine Aids to Navigation Personnel;

# Background

During ENG14 a presentation was given on this topic and during ENG15 Working Group 2 analysed the imput paper ENG15-3.1.4.2 sent by Cuba where the need for training courses for tower keepers was assessed, taking into account that many Authorities and Services have their lighthouses automated and their operation is remotely monitored and controlled. It was also appreciated that other IALA Members, whose lighthouses are not operated under such a scheme and do not frequently participate in ENG sessions, might have these training needs.

# Discussion

To begin the process of training and national certification of Cuban light keepers, GEOCUBA Estudios Marinos designed and delivered the first Qualification and Basic Knowledge Course for Lighthouse Keepers between September 12th and 15th, 2022, held in the recently inaugurated Training Classroom of this institution located in Punta Santa Catalina, Municipality of Regla, in the center of the Bay of Havana, in the capital of Cuba.



1. Course Introductory Presentation

The opening ceremony was chaired by MSc. Víctor Emilio Aluija Urgel, General Director of the GEOCUBA Business Group. Representatives of the “Granma” Naval Academy, the Cuban IMO certified institution for middle and high maritime personnel training levels, were also present.

The 14 students of the course were taught the general elements of a total of 36 topics of interest for the correct performance of the light keepers´ duties. The course included a visit to Morro de la Habana lighthouse, where its keepers explained the specific characteristics of its operation and the students were able to visit a room in the museum of the Tres Reyes del Morro castle, devoted exclusively to Aids to Maritime Navigation and especially to the Cuban lighthouses.



1. AtoN Museum of the Tres Reyes del Morro Castle

The six higher-level professors, some of them with Master and Doctorate categories, valued the elements contained in several modules of levels L1 and L2 as very useful information for the preparation of the course. Other topics of local, territorial or national interest were also included.

 

1. Students (left) and professors/organizers (right)

The students faced a final exam of 20 questions. Students who passed the exam were issued a Certificate that enables them to work as light keepers in the lighthouses of the Republic of Cuba.



1. Delivery of Certificates

The participants requested the future preparation of thematic training courses on certain aspects. The purpose of GEOCUBA Estudios Marinos is to continue training light keepers and other categories of Aids to Maritime Navigation personnel and make the training capabilities already created also available to other Aids to Maritime Navigation Authorities and Services.

# References

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Address this document to WWA for information purposes and to the appropriate ENG Working Group in order to raise the interest of IALA Members in providing training for keepers in accordance with their needs.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)