

World-Wide Academy

2020 at a glance

- 23 Professionals for 7 countries qualified in AtoN management
- 4 Technical needs assessment and review missions conducted
- 12 international awareness events and meetings attended
- 681 engaged in events organized by the Academy

Strategy – Getting all coastal states onboard.

The IALA World-Wide Academy focuses on facilitating the effective implementation of IALA standards, recommendations, guidelines and model courses by coastal States through education, training and capacity building thereby underpinning the second strategic goal of IALA.

The Academy aims to ensure that all coastal States can fulfil the obligations related to marine aids to navigation placed upon them in SOLAS Chapter V and that all coastal States can claim conformance with the relevant IALA standards.

To achieve these goals, the Academy undertakes a wide range of activities based on three simple principles:

1 ENLIGHTEN

raise the awareness of high-level decision makers of their international obligations relating to safety of navigation;

2 EDUCATE

provide a suite of relevant education and training opportunities for as many as possible; and

3 ENGAGE

pursue long-term capacity building activities with coastal States and provide advice on how to overcome challenges.

In support of the United Nations Delivering as One approach, the Academy cooperates with and coordinates its activities with other international organizations, underpinning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Enlightening – Raising the awareness of high-level decision makers.

Despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy has remained active throughout 2020 in the promotion of the SOLAS requirements related to both Aids to Navigation and Vessel Traffic Services and the benefits of implementing the IALA standards.

In the margins of the IALA Diplomatic Conference, held early in 2020, the Academy team met with many representatives from of its target coastal States and several missions and events were agreed. Unfortunately, the pandemic soon prevented any face-to-face meetings, and the Academy was forced to conduct its activities virtually or alternatively postpone events. In conjunction with the conference, the Academy conducted its second seminar on “Effective Implementation of IALA Standards” which attracted 130 high-level decision makers from the 52 countries attending the Diplomatic Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The Academy developed a webinar concept aimed at enlightening, educating and engaging individuals world-wide. A successful webinar, aimed at French speaking countries in Africa, took place in October

as a follow-up to the awareness seminar that was conducted in 2019 in Rabat, Morocco. The webinar was well attended and featured an excellent address by the Minister for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of the Republic of Congo. A large and diverse audience was reached through the conduct of a webinar with The Nautical Institute. Some 438 attendees joined the webinar from a wide range of organizations and maritime backgrounds.

Contact has remained strong with sister organizations, particularly the IMO and other organizations who are part of the United Nations Delivering as One' partnership. The Academy was represented at the Technical Cooperation Committee and acted as one of the rapporteurs during the United Nations Decade Western Tropical Atlantic Regional Workshop. The Academy has continued to be represented at various regional hydrographic commissions which have been conducted online.

Once IALA transforms into an intergovernmental organization, the six official languages of the United Nations will be used. Currently the Academy operates primarily in English and French but in 2020 the newly developed Spanish Support Team concept matured significantly. During the preparatory Diplomatic Conference in Morocco, several Spanish speaking countries volunteered up to contribute to this concept and it is envisaged that the translation of IALA publications into Spanish can now be accelerated.

Educating – Providing education and training opportunity to many

Although the opportunities for face-to-face training were severely restricted during 2020, the Academy made significant progress in the development and modernization of its suite of training programmes. Work to modernize and refresh the popular Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager and Level 1.3 IALA Risk Management Tools programmes commenced. This included the development of new and interactive learning materials for online and distance learning using modern software as well as the redevelopment of the course materials used by the accredited training organizations. This included a new suite of textbooks for the Aids to Navigation Manager course.

The new learning materials use modern educational software to allow participants to interact with the subjects at hand as well as embedding activities, custom made videos and the practical use of the IALA standards to consolidate learning.

Further investment has been made in developing the IALA Learning Management System to provide an enhanced digital learning platform both for participants studying through online distance learning as well as to provide a resource to accredited training organizations.

The courses related to the IALA Risk Management Tools have been completely redesigned to enable more focus to be given to each of the tools. This enables participants to select the tools that are of maximum practical benefit for their individual operational needs through making the course modular in nature. In late 2020, a pilot course commenced with the State Hydrographic Service of the Ukraine to train them in risk assessment using the IWRAP Mk2 tool. The new modular style courses have received positive feedback and will be available in spring 2021 through online distance learning and face-to-face training as soon as is practicable.

In terms of practical implementation, the Academy continued to develop its proactive relationship with the ASEAN Regional Training Centre for VTS in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Academy supported the delivery of a V-103/1 VTS Operator course which was regrettably cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academy has continued to actively participate in the ASEAN VTS Expert Group and has supported their planning to recommence VTS training as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The Academy has continued to support the VTS community and successfully hosted an online workshop on *VTS training and qualifications, 2020 and beyond*. The primary objective of the workshop was to obtain first-hand information from those involved in VTS operations and training to enable the IALA VTS Committee to review and update the IALA V-103/1 VTS Operator Model Course by identifying the current needs of the profession and assessing the key competencies desired against the existing curriculums. Some 51 participants from 23 countries participated in the workshop which was fully subscribed.

The Academy has also developed new courses during 2020 in addition to the comprehensive programme of updates to the existing range. A major milestone has been the creation of a new course on the principles of effective procurement. This course covers content such as the preparation of business cases, specifications and tenders in a manner consistent with best industry practice and taking account of the relevant IALA standards.

The pandemic has enabled a new way of working and facilitated the effective combination of the enlightenment and education limbs of the Academy strategy. This was effectively demonstrated with a project with the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport in Somalia. During consultations on the planned reinstatement of aids to navigation in the port of Mogadishu it was identified that training in both risk management and procurement would be beneficial to supplement the skills of the three IALA qualified Marine Aids to Navigation managers in the country.

Through conducting both simultaneous capacity building and education programmes online, the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport were able to complete a risk assessment using the IALA Simplified Risk Assessment method and prepare for procuring the necessary aids to navigation infrastructure through piloting the newly developed procurement training.

During 2020 close contact was maintained with the global network of accredited training organizations. In particular, the Academy was pleased to provide support to the Pacific Community in their application to gain accreditation for the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager course as a formally recognized micro qualification in the Pacific region. Such accreditation and international recognition will significantly enhance the professional status of Marine Aids to Navigation Managers and the IALA standards framework in general.

Engaging – Pursuing long-term capacity building

Due to the pandemic, the programme of capacity building activities, which normally relies heavily on face-to-face contact and on-site activities has been severely disrupted. However, contact has been maintained with all coastal State partners where missions or other activities were scheduled with a view to the early resumption of activities when the situation permits safe travel or to undertake online activities as an alternative.

Technical Needs Assessment Missions to Haiti and Cyprus took place early in the year. The objective of both missions was to assess the adequateness and effectiveness of systems in place for providing Aids to Navigation services. Although the mission to Haiti had to be aborted due to the onset of travel restrictions, the dialogue has continued online, following up on the mission. An officer from Haiti is currently studying for the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager qualification and the next step will be a risk assessment course. Haiti is now an active member of IALA.

Online activities are in progress with several countries. An online “micro-Seminar” was conducted with Belize Port Authority, following up on recommendations provided during a mission to Belize in 2017. Significant progress was noted and, in due time, Belize will be able to claim conformance to the

IALA standards. Belize Port Authority has requested further assistance from the Academy to enhance their capacity to enable them to conduct risk assessments in line with their SOLAS obligations.

In 2020 the primary sponsors have stood by the Academy and maintained their generous support which is appreciated by all those who utilize the services of the Academy. The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues.