IALA WWA Board.1/1.0/03

1 March 2012

**Report on the First Board Meeting of the IALA Worldwide Academy**

**Held at IALA Headquarters Saint Germain en Laye**

**6th and 7th February 2012**

**Introduction**

The first Board Meeting of the IALA WWA (**The Academy**) was held in Saint Germain en Laye in February 2012. The Board comprises five honorary members appointed for four years. The next election will be held in 2016 at which existing members may be re-elected. Members for the first term are Rear Admiral Jean-Charles Leclair (Dean and Chairman); Mr Gary Prosser (IALA Secretary General); Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert; Mr Omar Frits Eriksson and Mr Tamotsu Ikeda-san.

The Academy remains an integral part of IALA, but thanks to major sponsorship from the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation and other National Administrations is self-funding. This enables it to pursue actively its role which was ratified by a Decision taken at the 52nd IALA Council Meeting. This stressed the particular importance of The Academy’s role in Capacity Building and proposed an Action Plan to meet that role.

A key element supporting the work of The Academy is the technical and expert advice provided by existing IALA Committees and Working Groups upon whom The Academy depends and with whom the Academy will maintain a close and positive relationship. The valuable input from Industrial Members was also recognised. The Secretary General will liaise with them through the Industrial Committee Members to determine areas of mutual benefit.

**Principle Results of the First Board Meeting**

**Capacity Building and Master Plan**. The Board decided to create a formal Master Plan which would set out its strategy for both the short (current year) and medium (following three year) term. It agreed to develop a Capacity Building model which grouped both Member and potential Member States into regions of most need. Appropriate liaison with International Organisations such as the IMO and IHO will be maintained so that Capacity Building can be developed on a broad front. One country in each region would be identified as the lead Member State. The Academy has developed a strategy which will be applied in each region. This “**4A**” model is based on raising **awareness** through Level 1 seminars; the **assessment** of needs in each region using a tailored questionnaire when appropriate; **analysis** of requirements, based partly on available AIS data from several sources, leading to proposed **actions** to meet those requirements.

**Level 1+ Awareness Seminars**. The first well-attended Level 1+ seminar aimed at raising the awareness of executives from Competent Authorities in the Arabian Gulf region was held successfully in Bahrain in late January. Further Level 1+ seminars are planned for the Southern African region in late May and for the Australasian region in November 2012. The potential for a seminar for participants from West Africa is being pursued. The Academy will fund soft copies of the NAVGUIDE and VTS manuals to present to participants, some of whom will be sponsored to maximise the effectiveness of these awareness seminars.

**VTS Training**. The Board endorsed the importance and urgency of reinforcing the implementation of international VTS training, as developed by IALA. An Academy-chaired meeting in late March will address this issue as well as potential offers of assistance from Member States such as India. The findings of the VTS meeting will be considered at the second Board Meeting scheduled for late April 2012.

**AtoN Level 2 Training**. The Board of The Academy is the Issuing Authority for all Model Courses. Some excellent Model Courses for AtoN Technicians have already been produced by IALA Committees. This tried and tested procedure will be maintained with the Academy’s Programme Manager acting in a liaison capacity so that drafts, approved by Committees, can be considered by the Board before being presented to Council for formal endorsement. An overview Level 2 document covering the complete syllabus will be prepared in consort with IALA Committees. This will contain general instructions applicable to all courses, thereby removing the requirement to duplicate them in courses covering a specific subject. Therefore, volunteers to draft specific level 2 Model Courses are still very welcome.

**Quality Management Accreditation of The Academy**. The Academy will adopt a Quality Management system most appropriate to its activities.

**Academy Website**. The Board decided that The Academy should have its own website linked closely to that of the parent IALA website to emphasis their inter-dependence and common brand. It is proposed that this website will permit access to the Master Plan; all Model Courses with related recommendations and guidance and potentially the ability for authorised users to download lecture and lesson plans in MS PowerPoint formats.

**Summary**

The First Board Meeting of the IALA Worldwide Academy, backed by a strong Council Decision and appropriate funding, provided clear directions for the manner in which the role and terms of reference of The Academy would be pursued. The Board underlined the vital role played by existing IALA Committees and included a strategy on the key role of regional Capacity Building. A four-year Master Plan covering the initial term of Board Members was established together with progress on VTS and AtoN Level 2 training. The Academy would be audited by an appropriate Quality Management System and its activities published on a dedicated website. By pursing actively such a programme, it is intended that the safety of navigation and the marine environment will be improved world-wide.

***Jean-Charles Leclair***

Dean