

## 7.1 National matters from Japan

### [Twinning lighthouse]

The Japan Coast Guard, Tokokai, the Northern Lighthouse Board, and the Mull of Galloway Trust have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation, officially establishing a “Twin Lighthouses” partnership between Inubosaki Lighthouse in Japan and Mull of Galloway Lighthouse in Scotland. This agreement symbolizes a commitment to fostering ties between these two iconic maritime landmarks, which both hold deep significance within their respective cultures.

The primary purpose of this twinning initiative is to establish a formal partnership between the individual lighthouses and to strengthen cooperation between the respective lighthouse authorities and associated organizations. Through this initiative, both parties seek to spotlight the historical ties between Japan and Scotland, which are deeply rooted in maritime tradition. Additionally, the partnership focuses on promoting cultural exchange and tourism in both countries. Through this collaboration, Japan and Scotland hope to deepen mutual appreciation of their maritime histories and encourage tourism that celebrates the legacy of these lighthouses as symbols of innovation, heritage, and friendship.

### [ASEAN capacity building]

Since 2017, VTS operator training has been provided at the ASEAN Regional Training Center for VTS Operators. This vital program, under the framework of the IALA WWA and the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, plays a crucial role in enhancing maritime safety standards across the region. Through this training, there are 110 trainees successfully completed the program and received IALA certification. This year’s program commenced with 11 participants from 7 countries, contributing to a growing network of proficient VTS operators capable of supporting safe and efficient navigation within the region's waters.

As the maritime transport environment continues to evolve with increasing vessel traffic and growing demands for safer and more efficient navigation, the need for well-developed and maintained AtoN facilities in ASEAN countries has become more critical than ever. To address this pressing need, Japan is set to launch a specialized AtoN manager training program in Vietnam beginning from near future. This training initiative will be based on IALA standards and aims to develop AtoN managers across ASEAN countries. This initiative also seeks to enhance navigational safety, support

environmental sustainability, and foster stronger maritime governance within ASEAN countries.