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| joint IMO/ITU experts group on maritime radio communication matters  18th session  Agenda item 4 | IMO/ITU EG 18/INF. X  DD November 2022  Original: ENGLISH  Pre-session public release: |

**development of the draft IMO position on   
world radiocommunication conference (WRC-23) agenda item 10**

**IALA workshop on** **development of IALA plan on future digital maritime communication infrastructure**

**Submitted by IALA**

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| **SUMMARY** | |
| *Executive summary:* | This document informs the Groups of the IALA workshop on development of IALA plan on future digital maritime communication infrastructure. |
| *Action to be taken:* | Paragraph 12 |
| *Related documents:* | NCSR 9/24, NCSR 9/WP.5 |

**Introduction**

1. At its 9th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (NCSR), when developing the draft IMO position on WRC-23 agenda item 10, the following view was expressed.

“Dedicated events (e.g. a conference, workshops, etc.) could be organized to accelerate the pace of the work required.” (para 46.4, NCSR 9/WP.5)

1. In this connection, IALA provided the Sub-Committee with the information of the IALA workshop on development of IALA plan on future digital maritime communication infrastructure to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in January or February 2023. (para 12.24, NCSR 9/24).

**Background**

1. The recent development of digital maritime communication technologies such as VDES, NAVDAT, IMT, digitalization of VHF voice communication and others such as onboard internet connection will bring numerous benefits to users for the safety and efficiency of navigation, protection of marine environment, welfare of seafarers in addition to the efficient use of maritime radiocommunication spectrum.
2. However, digitalization of maritime communication requires careful consideration. For example, some maritime radiocommunication channels may need to maintain analogue operation for compatibility with legacy equipment and maintain the integrity of GMDSS. Other channels may be suitable for digital utilization. The implementation of such digital use will require further studies.
3. Whilst some digital systems can be implemented as a direct replacement for analogue, others may require installation of additional antennas and sites for transmission of services. Appropriate implementation of digital systems is therefore important.
4. Furthermore, satellite communication services are or will be available on the market. Satellite communication services can complement terrestrial communication services when utilized appropriately.

**IALA workshop**

1. IALA has contributed to the digitalization of maritime communication through publication of IALA documents and submission of papers to IMO, ITU, IHO, IEC and other relevant international bodies for a long time as a competent authority of marine aids to navigation services.
2. IALA understands that our members need guidance for the preparation of the digitalization of maritime communication in future and decides to hold a dedicated workshop on this issue hosted by Japan Coast Guard.
3. The Workshop is aimed to assist marine aids to navigation authorities, other shore authorities and IALA members to consider digitalization of their services through future digital marine communication systems as an infrastructure
4. The Workshop is held from 20 to 24 February 2023 at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technologies. The detailed information of the Workshop will be available on IALA home page.
5. IALA considers that the Workshop is held from aids to navigation authority’s viewpoint but may have some values to IMO for its consideration of digitalization of maritime communication and will submit the report of the Workshop as an information paper to IMO.

**Action requested to the Group**

1. The Group is invited to note the information provided.