8 March 2012

**The IALA Worldwide Academy**

**Brief to the VTS Committee 20 March 2012 - Extract**

The First Board Meeting of the IALA Worldwide Academy in February 2012, 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 will be audited by an appropriate Quality Management System and its activities published on a dedicated website.

An essential 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. As part of this relationship it is proposed that either the Dean or the Programme Manager, Mr Stephen Bennett, will provide a short PowerPoint brief to each Committee at their biannual meetings. The first such brief is scheduled to VTS 34 on 20th March 2012. The Board endorsed the importance and urgency of reinforcing the implementation of international VTS training, as developed by IALA. An Academy-chaired meeting on 24th March will address this issue. A further such meeting is proposed for VTS 35 in Istanbul.

The Board of The Academy has become the Issuing Authority for all Model Courses, several of which 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.

The Board Master Plan will set out its strategy for both the short (current year) and medium (following three year) term. A Capacity Building model which groups both Member and potential Member States into regions of most need forms part of this Plan. 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 will 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, including VTS, in each region; **analysis** of requirements, based partly on available AIS data from several sources, leading to proposed **actions** to meet those requirements.

The first Level 1+ seminar was held 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. A tailored pre-Seminar questionnaire which includes VTS elements will be issued to attendees. 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. Further detail will be provided at the Academy brief on 20 March.