

INCHEON DECLARATION

On Lighthouses as Cultural Heritage

Under the IALA motto ‘Successful voyages, Sustainable planet’ the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of the Republic of Korea and the International Association for Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), gathered at the 19th IALA Conference, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 28 May to 2 June 2018;

Considering the objectives embodied in the conference theme ‘A new era for Marine Aids to Navigation in a connected world’;

Recalling the principles put forward in the Conventions concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage (2002), the Xi’an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005), and the Florence Declaration on Heritage and Landscape as Human Values (2014);

Noting the relevant provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and other important multilateral conventions, agreements, and action plans related to the maritime community and environment;

Emphasizing that historical lighthouses are a unique and important symbol of a globally -shared maritime heritage and hold great significance to local and national communities as well as being a clear demonstration of an effective global collaboration of the best contemporary material and technological sciences;

Understanding that the cultural heritage of lighthouses is a meaningful legacy that exists today and that is passed on to future generations; this cultural heritage includes but is not limited to navigational, technological, material, industrial, social, environmental, architectural, maritime and local aspects and lends itself to education and wider cultural and commercial activities;

Noting the vital role of lighthouses in the safe navigation of shipping over the centuries and its value to the seafarers and others as a symbol of hope and safety;

Considering a vision for the conservation and sustainable management of historical lighthouses as cultural heritage;

Declare the following:

IALA members are encouraged to:

1. Raise awareness of the need for the conservation and sustainable management of historical lighthouses as cultural heritage;
2. Recognize that the significance of historical lighthouses extends beyond the navigational and architectural value to include maritime culture and history, social history, environmental aspects and that there is great value in documenting, researching and interpreting these for the benefit and inspiration of future generations;
3. Conserve and develop historical lighthouse sites and associated maritime cultural spaces in order that people of all ages and backgrounds can appreciate and enjoy their respective nations' maritime contribution and culture;
4. Support IALA's efforts to further sustainable lighthouse management through knowledge sharing, training and international cooperation projects; which will strengthen the capacity of coastal nations to manage their lighthouses in a coordinated manner and will encourage good conservation practices and foster interest in lighthouse heritage globally;
5. Note the launch of the Incheon Project designed for IALA and its members to provide assistance for developing nations through education, training, technology transfer and capacity building as well as contributing to the advancement of global aids to navigation by means of various programmes and management in efficient and coordinated manner as an important legacy of the 19th IALA Conference in Incheon, Korea in 2018.