

IMC



25 June 2020
Video conference

1.1 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on several matters related to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

The membership of IALA is stable even after termination by Council of several members for non-payment and the interest in the Committee work is very satisfying. Unfortunately, most of the Committee meetings and other important events in the spring were cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. Many activities were carried out using video conference tools with good results.

The Diplomatic Conference on the change of status to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), hosted by the Ministry of Transport and the Light Dues Board Peninsular Malaysia was successfully carried out in Kuala Lumpur 25 – 28 February 2020. The participation was overwhelming, and 50 States adopted the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (The Kuala Lumpur Convention) and signed the Final Act of the Conference.

A Workshop on the Future of Marine Radiobeacon DGPS/DGNSS was held between the 27 and 31 January 2020 at the Northern Light House Board Headquarters, Edinburgh, Scotland. The results will assist members and the maritime community in their decision-making regarding future DGNSS services.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA is 301, which is three members less than at the same time last year, but after termination of several memberships for non-payment. The movements in membership in the different categories since C70 are as follow:

Applications

- one application was received for National membership and provisionally accepted,
- six applications were received for Industrial membership and all were provisionally accepted. They are to be confirmed by the Council,
- two applications were received for Associate membership and provisionally accepted. They are to be confirmed by the Council.

Resignations

- two resignations were received from Industrial members (transfer, change in business) and
- one Associate member has resigned due to transfer of budget.

Members in arrear

Three National members were suspended for non-payment of their contributions (Algeria, Rep of Congo and Nigeria). In order to help them to solve this debt, the previous years were waived for Algeria and Rep of Congo and only the 2019 remained due in addition to the 2020 contribution. After four years of silence,



Algeria has contacted the Secretariat in February this year and explained that after a difficult time they will be able to fulfil their obligations soon. They also expressed their will to remain a member. Nigeria has also informed the Secretariat in February of a new management within their organization and promised to settle their due as soon as possible.

In addition to that, the number of members in arrears has considerably come down due to a successful collection of debt by the Secretariat after re structuring of the Administrative staff, where Ms. Lorraine Mbong is now the dedicated Membership officer.

Membership for the following organizations was kept in hold provided that the payment of their debts are received before Council 71: La Maquinista Valenciana in Spain, Kosolar in the Republic of Korea and ITO in Italy. No payment was received to date.

Before suspending their membership, it is important to take into consideration the impact of the COVID19 in the global economy. This is probably causing a delay in the payment of the contributions for some companies. More details will be given during the membership point on the agenda.

3. THE STRATEGIC VISION

An up-dated version of the Strategic Vision for IALA was approved by the General Assembly in May 2018 and the Committees has commenced work in accordance with the Vision. The Councillors will recall that the Strategic Vision has two Goals for 2026, a Strategy to reach these, and Priorities for work in the 2018-2026 period.

The second management-level document which describes IALA's strategy for its technical work is the "Position on the Development of Marine AtoN Services". This document sets out IALA's position or view on the various aspects of the development of Marine Aids to Navigation.

It is also the vehicle for carrying expressions of priority for work items, and stating where IALA will, or will not venture in its AtoN activity.

This position document is a "living document". It has been reviewed and maintained by PAP at least once per annum and commented on and agreed by the Council. After advice from C70 and the approval of the Strategic White Paper, the document was reviewed by PAP at its 39th session in February 2020 and agreed by C71 in June 2020.

The PAP agreed to hold a discussion at PAP40 on the drivers and trends document based on the outcome of C71 to ascertain any future impact on the structure of the technical committees.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

With the latest reorganization the IALA and WWA staff now consist of 12 full time employed members and three consultants (two in the WWA section and one for Communication). Ms. Marie-Hélène Grillet will retire end of June 2020 and Ms. Virginia Marshall will retire mid-2021.

It has been decided that Ms. Grillet will be replaced by Ms. Audrey Guinault who has been part of the IALA team since 2015. The Secretariat is in the process of recruiting a new administrative staff for the reception.

With the growing number of members and participants and the growing involvement of IALA in international guidance on Safety of Navigation one more technical officer, Mr. Jamie Alvarez from Spain, has been recruited as secretary for the Committees and advisor on technical matters. Mr. Tom Southall and Mr. Alvarez will then take care of two Committees each and the related seminars, workshops etc. This will also give the needed resources for improved necessary quality assurance of the guidance documents before they are submitted to Council and on the web site.



This small reorganization and the new recruitments can be covered by the present budget as described under agenda point nine.

5. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

The Diplomatic Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25 to 28 February 2020 reached the result it was aiming at. This Conference marked a very important step for IALA as the Convention for the future Organization under intergovernmental status was adopted. More than 239 persons participated or were observers of the conference from 62 States. Delegates with Credentials from 50 States signed the Final Act of the Conference adopting the text of the Convention and two resolutions. One resolution on languages of the Organization and one on the signing ceremony in Paris in November 2020. It was also agreed that further work on the draft General Regulations would be done now the text of the draft Convention has been agreed.

The question of the languages of the new Organization was discussed intensively during all 4 Diplomatic Conferences. While there was agreement on the working language English, the compromise of have the six languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) was only achieved on the last day of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole in Kuala Lumpur.

As agreed in Resolution one of the Diplomatic Conference the General Assembly shall be conducted in, and that input papers in the form of draft resolutions and the report, shall be translated into the official languages.

The Conference determined that the working language of the Organization will be English, and that the work and meetings of the Council, Committees and subsidiary bodies will be conducted in the working language.

The General Regulations are prepared in a draft based on the adopted Convention and will be approved at the first General Assembly of the Organization. The draft General regulation and its Financial Regulations were made available as an information paper at the Conference.

A draft HQ Agreement is prepared by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. This will be discussed in the Legal Advisory Panel and finalized in due time before the entry into force of the Convention.

6. PREPARATION FOR THE 14TH SYMPOSIUM AND THE 20TH CONFERENCE

Unfortunately, the 14th Symposium planned the 25 to 29 May 2020 in Rotterdam had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The host from the Netherlands has negotiated a new date with the World Trade Centre in Rotterdam and it is possible to reschedule the event to 19 till 23 April 2021. The new web site is active, and promotion of the new dates has started.

The preparations for the 20th Conference proposed to be held 28 May to 4 June 2022 at the Windsor Convention Centre in Rio de Janeiro is progressing well.

The first meeting of the Steering Group for the preparation of the Conference has been held and the Industrial Members Committee held a successful meeting in Rio de Janeiro last year and inspected all the possible facilities to ensure a successful Exhibition and Industrial Members evening in Rio.

The Council members from the Netherlands, Brazil and the IMC will give more details during the relevant agenda point.



7. E-NAVIGATION UNDERWAY – DIGITAL@SEA CONFERENCES

The e-Navigation Underway (ENUW) initiative complements the e-Navigation work carried out by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), supported by a wide range of concerned stakeholders and with the IMO acting as the leading coordinator to ensure a global approach to e-Navigation developments.

The e-Navigation Conference series is coordinated by IALA, in close cooperation with the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA), The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) and international organizations, in particular, the IHO, CIRM, BIMCO and the NI. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has shown interest in participating in this group.

These conferences are concerned with gathering stakeholder opinions and facilitating the exchange of views and experiences, with a focus on user needs and on supporting the human element, which is also a central concern of the IMO. Each conference produces a set of highlights for the guidance of stakeholders and to further progress e-Navigation in IALA and elsewhere.

There have been several meetings between DMA, MOF AND IALA with the purpose of transforming the ENUW series of Conferences into a new format: Digital@Sea. As mentioned, it is the hope to include the USCG in this group and also RTCM, who will host the ENUW North America for the second time this year.

The main purpose of this transformation is to open the Conferences to a broader digital agenda for the Maritime sector and not be restricted to “only” e-Navigation.

It is also proposed to establish a Capacity Building Workshop that fits very well with the work of the IALA World-Wide Academy and its sponsors, and a Digital@Sea Cluster to coordinate the results etc. of the many digital test beds around the world.

It is proposed that the ENUW Conferences in the fall of 2020 (Asia and North America) if possible, should be the “normal ENUW set-up” and that the first Digital@Sea Conference will be the International in January/February 2021 in Denmark.

8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug. The Academy finished its 2019 Action Plan which encompassed technical missions to developing countries, several awareness raising activities, a number of Level 1 Aids to Navigation Manager courses delivered in both English and French and a masterclass delivered in China.

The integration of the Academy and the rest of the Secretariat continues to be strengthened through close cooperation between the Academy staff and the technical and administrative staff.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from several nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA Committees.

The three-year rolling agreement with IFAN, the primary sponsor of the Academy, continues to work well. As reported earlier, Malaysia joined as a major sponsor in 2018 followed by Singapore in 2019. In both cases there is a five-year sponsorship commitment for which we are very grateful. Korea has also decided to continue its important Sponsorship, and contributions from Australia, France, UK, JANA and others are also very much appreciated.

The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and IALA members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.