

Final Report of the 47th session of the IALA COUNCIL

Cape Town, South Africa

21st March 2010

Councillors present:

Captain Liu Gongchen, China	President
Mr James Collocott, South Africa	Vice President
Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert, UK	Treasurer
Mr. Graham Peachey, Australia	
Captain Walter dos Santos Duarte Júnior , Brazil	
Mr. André Châteauvert, Canada	
Rear Admiral Juan Pablo Heusser, Chile	
Mr. Svend Eskildsen, Denmark	
Mr. Keijo Kostianen, Finland	
Mr. Jacques Manchard, France	
Mr. Christian Forst, Germany	
Mr Manmohan Singh Suman, India	
Dr. Stuart Ruttle, Ireland	
Mr. Satoru Osanai, Japan	
Mr. Seung Jae LEE, Korea	
Captain Ahmad Bin Othman, Malaysia	
Mr. Arve Dimmen, Norway	
Mr Sergei Cherepanov, Russia	
Mr.Mamadou Thioub, Senegal	
Mr. Juan-Francisco Rebollo, Spain	
Mr. Ove Ericsson, Sweden	
Captain Tayfun Yalcin, Turkey	
Captain Wayne Muilenburg, USA	

Also in attendance:

Mr. Torsten Kruuse, outgoing IALA Secretary General
Mr. Gary Prosser, IALA Secretary General Elect
Mrs. Marie-Hélène Grillet, IALA Administration Manager
Dr. Mike Hadley, IALA Technical Co-ordination Manager
Adm. Jean-Charles Leclair, IALA accredited representative to IMO
Mr. Paul Ridgway, Editor, The IALA Bulletin
Mr. Lars Mansner, IMC Observer
Mr. Bradley Groves (observer, Australia)
Mrs. Jiang Xuemei (assistant to Captain Liu Gongchen)
Mr. David Gordon (observer, South Africa)
Captain Alberto Piovesana Júnior (Assistant to Captain Walter dos Santos Duarte Júnior)
Lt Cdr James Crawford (assistant to Rear Admiral Juan Pablo Heusser)

Mr. Damien Cazé (observer, France)
Captain A M Surej (observer, India)
Mr. Hiroyuki Antoku (assistant to Mr. Osanai)
Prof. GUG, Seung-Gi (assistant to Mr Seung-Jae LEE)
Mrs Kirsti Slotsvik (observer, Norway)

1. President's opening remarks

The President opened the meeting at 13h50 on 21st March 2010. He welcomed all Councillors to the meeting. He reminded them that the session was the last one of the current Council and thanked James Collocott for his efforts over the past four years for the organisation of this Conference.

James Collocott also welcomed the participants to the meeting and South Africa and thanks Mr David Gordon for his support in the organisation.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Nabil Al Turkait of Kuwait.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the report of the 46th session

The report of the 46th session was approved.

5. Financial Matters

Jeremy de Halpert, IALA Treasurer, explained that the FAC had not met this time before the Council meeting as it usually does. The FAC would meet before the 49th session in June 2010 to study the cash flow and balance sheet for 2009. He informed the Council however that IALA was expecting a profit of about 130,000.00 for that year and that the reserve was back to normal (1 year activity with no income).

6. Strategy matters

6.1 IALA Headquarters' location

The Secretary General said that the present premises at rue Schnapper in Saint-Germain-en-Laye were no longer convenient for the current activities. Two years before the session an offer was received from The Netherlands to host IALA Headquarters. France also worked on proposals aiming at IALA staying in France and submitted a document on refurbishing the current premises or settling in new ones.

He then invited both countries to speak up on their offers, starting with The Netherlands.

Kees Polderman of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management took the floor to explain what was contained in the bid book that had been circulated to the participants.

He first thanked the Council for this opportunity to introduce the offer, recalling that he had been himself on the Council for many years.

On the receipt of a sign of interest by IALA he started working in cooperation with several governmental and local bodies in The Netherlands (the Ministry of Transport,

Public Works and Water Management, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Development Corporation of the City of Rotterdam, the Rotterdam Expat Desk and the Rotterdam Port Authority). Rotterdam had been identified as an excellent host, with its large port, transportation network, hotels and restaurants, and no unnecessary bureaucracy.

He stated that the Dutch commitment would be fulfilled in the future and that the process would be transparent. He was conscious that funds would be needed for the transition and The Netherlands was ready to help financially. The bottom figure identified was 200,000.00 Euros.

IALA would also need support in its works and The Netherlands was prepared to help in this way.

Kees Polderman concluded his presentation in saying that the Dutch support also contained many non quantifiable aspects, which should be taken into account.

Sir Jeremy de Halpert, speaking as Treasurer, remarked that IALA had 1,5 M€ only but owned its Headquarters. Renting was not a practical option for the Association, which could be bankrupt after a few years. The cost for the space needed in the centre of Rotterdam was in the region of 2 M€ He wondered where IALA would find the money to fill the gap, which would come in addition to the cost of the move itself and paying out potential staff entitlements.

France was then invited to speak to its own offer.

Damien Cazé, Director General of Maritime Affairs, said that he understood the need to change Headquarters that were no longer adequate to the needs of the organisation. He recognised that France had not been as helpful as it should have been during the last decade and apologized for this. He added that the bureaucracy had been heavy but things have since improved and will continue to improve, mainly due to a new maritime policy from which IALA, as an international maritime symbol, would take benefit.

He showed videos of interviews of many French officers, among which the Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development, in charge of the maritime policy, confirming their strong interest in keeping IALA in the country.

In addition he presented an updated version of the document on refurbished Headquarters, on the basis of a possible new location identified in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, offering 740 sq m on one level. Being fully conscious of the expenses involved, France would support IALA in the works involved within the limit of 1 M€

Gary Prosser thanked both countries for their efforts and involvement and invited comments.

Svend Eskildsen, as Chairman of the IALA Legal Advisory Panel, said that the choice was difficult and the support of a professional lawyer would be needed to evaluate the benefits of the laws governing charities in both countries.

Kirsti Slotsvik asked if The Netherlands had thought of a possible IALA bankruptcy in case of renting out. Kees Polderman answered that there were ways to overcome this problem but

this was not a question easy to answer. More quantitative answers would be given to Location Strategy Management, an independent consultant hired to support IALA in its decision making process.

The Secretary General asked if The Netherlands would request to be given a permanent seat on the Council, as France was expected to do.

Kees Polderman answered that The Netherlands would not request a permanent seat but would have put their candidature forward in normal course. He added that a move from France implies that IALA is disbanded, which is not the case in The Netherlands. The country would not impose such constraints on the Association.

Gary Prosser requested further information on the French bid and in particular the two types of support indicated. Was the Financial support of 1 million Euro separate to the Technical support offered or would any Technical support be deducted from the lump sum figure?

After it had been made clear that the finance support and technical support were clearly two different aspects of the help offered from the host country, there were no further questions or comments and the representatives of both countries were requested to leave the room in order for the Council to debate.

The debate started with the following question: was a decision needed now? Arguments for a postponement were mainly based on the lack of visibility and the need for a professional lawyer to look into the issues involved. Arguments for an immediate decision were that the issue had been on the table for two years and the Council should not continue having never ending discussions. **The majority agreed that a decision had to be made during this session.**

The following aspects were then discussed:

- **Principle:** IALA shouldn't be afraid of changes. Rotterdam is a maritime location, and the Dutch bid book attractive. IALA should be where it can be most effective. From the present Constitution it appears that a move is not easy to decide and implement. There is a need to revise the Constitution in the future to make it easier. Supports offered by the possible host countries were not very clear: there were some aspects unclear in the Dutch proposal and some doubts on the future of the French support based on the past lack of interest. Both potential Host Nations requested a permanent seat on the Council. This was generally considered as a good thing, which would however call for a change in the Constitution.
- **Finance:** Rotterdam offers a huge number of good facilities but nothing to buy and the rental costs are approximately 200,000.00 Euros a year. There was no ongoing rental cost in France where IALA can continue to owe its premises.
- **Legal:** there would be a need for professional legal advice and a business case to be developed but this would postpone a decision that was now urgent.

The **conclusion of the discussions** was that the Council would pursue the French option as the 'preferred' option and agreed for a small Council Facilitation team to be formed to progress the matter and report back to Council 49 in June 2010. The Facilitation team would

be lead by the Secretary General, the Treasurer and Chair of the Legal Advisory Panel in discussion with the French representative. The option of the Netherlands would still be on the table if the Facilitation team could not make adequate progress with retaining the Headquarters in France.

The Group would also consider the two options available in Saint-Germain-en-Laye:

- to buy the ground floor in the same building and in addition retain the space IALA currently had on the second floor while selling the space on the third floor, which would slightly enlarge the premises; or
- to sell the current premises and acquire 740 sqm in another building that had recently come on the market in Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

This ended the debate on this Agenda item, which would not need to be taken to the General Assembly as there was no intended change in the country or town where IALA holds its Headquarters.

6.2 IALA Strategy Paper

Christian Forst, Chair of the Strategy Group, presented the final version of the IALA Strategy Paper for 2010-2012, in which the Vision Statement, which so far was missing, had been introduced. There was no other change to the paper, which was **approved** and should be **presented to the General Assembly**.

7. IALA Committees and Working Groups

7.1 Pilotage Authority Forum

Arve Dimmen, Forum Chair, reported that the comments collected on the production of Pilotage Guidelines were mostly in favour of the document. A new version was to be developed for submission to the 49th session of the Council.

The Secretary General said that the IMPA Secretary General was not in favour of IALA having the Forum and a meeting would be organised during the Conference between the IALA And IMPA Presidents.

7.2 Steering Committee on Generic Risk Model

Reports of the latest Steering Committee meetings were noted.

The Secretary General added that the model was continuing to improve under Omar-Fritz Eriksson's lead and a presentation would be made at the Conference.

The submission to IMO informing the Organisation that the model is now fully operational was approved.

7.3 IALA-NET

The Secretary General Elect reported that the last meeting held in Washington made good progress. The next one was due in Oslo in May 2010.

7.4 Aids to Navigation in Arctic Waters Meeting

The Secretary General reported on the success of the meeting where 5 countries had been invited: Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the USA. The meeting outcome was an agreed Resolution and also agreed was attained on the setting up a Forum.

The Forum's Terms of Reference had been developed by IALA but the Forum would operate independently. The ToRs were therefore **noted** by the Council and not approved as was originally indicated in the Agenda for the meeting. It was also noted IHO would participate in the Forum.

The submission to IMO that had been approved by correspondence prior to the meeting was confirmed.

8. IMC Matters

Lars Mansner reported that the Exhibition was very popular and expected to be a success. The Industrial Members were about to meet in General Assembly on Friday 26th March.

9. IALA Conferences and Symposiums

9.1 – 2010 Conference, Cape Town, South Africa

James Collocott said that this Conference was the result of many years of work and it was a privilege to welcome the IALA membership in South Africa on this occasion. He was hoping that it would be fruitful and enjoyable.

The Secretary General added that there had been a perfect cooperation between South Africa and the IALA Secretariat.

9.2 – 2012 VTS Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey

Tuncay Cehreli reported that an agreement had been signed with the Exhibition centre. The 1st Announcement had been prepared and the Website was ready. The Organisation company had also been contracted.

9.3 – 2014 IALA Conference

Juan-Francisco Rebollo said that the organisation process had started. Spain had booked a stand at the Exhibition, but the venue had still to be decided.

9.4 – 2016 VTS Symposium

Wayne Muilenburg reported that there was no further progress since the last Council meeting..

9.5 – 2018 IALA Conference

The Korean delegation had nothing to report further on this item.

10. IALA Workshops and Seminars

10.1 – Workshop on Virtual Aids to Navigation

Christian Forst suggested adding a summary of the Recommendation and Guidelines contents in the report.

James Collocott and Stuart Ruttle identified some editorial amendments needed in the documents and James Collocott added that a definition of the acronym VATON was required.

Both the Recommendation and the Guidelines were approved with these amendments.

10.2 – IWRAP Training Workshop

The Secretary General reported that this was the second training workshop and the intention was to hold one workshop every year.

The report was noted.

11. Membership

11.1 – Applications for Membership

11.1.1- National Membership

- *Colombian Maritime and Lighthouse Authority*: **Accepted** in principle, on receipt of their application form.
- *General Company for Ports of Iraq*: Permanent membership **accepted** at the end of their one year free trial membership.
- *Hi Tech Elastomers Ltd; India*. **Accepted.**
- *Thales Air System; France*. **Accepted**

11.1.2 – Industrial Membership

- *Orbcomm, USA*: **Accepted**
- *Pintsch Aben, The Netherlands*: **Accepted**
- *Pegase Systems, France*: **Accepted**
- *Vija Technologies, Vietnam*: **Accepted**
- *Al Masar Al Iraqi Marine Services and Logistic, Iraq*: **Postponed** due to lack of information on their actual activities.

11.1.3 - Associate Membership

- *German Aerospace Centre, Germany*: **Accepted**
- *Marin, The Netherlands*: **Application rejected.** The company does not qualify for Associate membership and did not get the support of the National Member in The Netherlands. Marin should apply for Industrial Membership.
- *Abu Dhabi Ports Company, United Arab Emirates*: **Accepted**

11.2 - Resignations from IALA Membership

There was no resignation to be considered by this session.

11.3 - Honorary IALA Membership

The Council unanimously decided to grant IALA Honorary Membership to Captain Liu Gongchen, Torsten Kruuse, Mike Sollosi, Captain Duncan Glass and Wim van der Heijden, in recognition of their outstanding support to IALA.

Captain Liu Gongchen, Head of the IALA National Member in China, was President of the Association from 2006 to 2006 and a great support to IALA initiatives.

Torsten Kruuse, due to retire on 31st March 2010, was the IALA Secretary General since 1st July 1994.

Mike Sollosi of the USA and Duncan Glass of Trinity House were Chairs of the VTS and ANM IALA Committees respectively, over many years and led their Committees to great successes.

Wim van der Heijden of The Netherlands had been a leader in the studies and implementation of AIS.

12. IALA Communication means

14.1 – IALA Websites

The Secretary General reported problems with the Committees and Council websites. A change of company was envisaged to solve the problems.

14.2 – IALA Bulletin

The IALA Bulletin Editor reported that the IALA Bulletin had increased in the number of pages throughout 2009. He also said that the editorial meetings held with the secretary General were of great help.

15. Date and place of next meetings

- **Session 48** was to be the first session of the new elected Council. It would take place on Saturday 27th March at Cape Town in early afternoon. Its main purpose would be to elect the new President, Vice President and Finance Advisory Committee
- **Session 49** was confirmed on the week commencing 21st June 2010 in Marseilles, France.
- **Session 50** will be held week 49 in December 2010. Tentative invitations had been received from Korea and India. The new Council will decide on their follow up.

16. Any other business

Secretary General Torsten Kruuse said that this was his last Council meeting after 16 years devoted to IALA. He expressed his gratitude to the support he always got from the Council and added that it had been a pleasure to work with the Councillors who, for many of them, have become real friends.

James Collocott congratulated Captain Liu for his excellent work over his past 4 years of Presidency and extended his thanks to Mrs. Jiang. He also thanked Torsten Kruise, who had done a tremendous job and Jeremy de Halpert who had kept IALA in good financial health.

The President then closed the meeting by thanking the delegates for their support in ensuring smooth meetings and their efforts to highlight IALA role on the Aids to Navigation international scene.