

Agenda item 13 – IALA CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

13.1 Venues for Symposium 2020 and Conference 2022

Note by the Secretariat

1 SUMMARY

This paper draws Council's attention to the need to consider venues for the IALA Symposium 2020 and IALA Conference 2022.

2 BACKGROUND

The Guidelines for the preparation of an IALA Conference or Symposium state that “*IALA Conferences and Symposiums are normally held at intervals of approximately four years. However the scheduling of such meetings should ensure that there is an adequate time gap between conferences and symposiums*”. The Guidelines also state that “*Offers to host a Conference/Symposium should be submitted [...] no later than one year before the start of the preceding Conference/Symposium.*”

To conform to these principles IALA is expected to hold a Symposium in 2020 and a Conference in 2022, for which hosts should be selected not later than 2015 and 2017 respectively. However, no offers have been received yet for any of these events.

Council members may consider placing offers for these major IALA events and/or request the Secretary-General to explore means of encouraging IALA Members to be candidates as potential hosts.

3 ELEMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT TO PLACE AN OFFER

Most of the important elements are listed in the Guidelines for the Preparation of an IALA Conference or Symposium, a revised version of which is submitted for approval at paper C60-13.2.1, but one important aspect is to ensure, as far as practicable, a fair balance between host continents and sub continents.

Councillors will find in the table below the locations of planned and past events over 22 years.

Year	Event	Host country	Host continent
2018	Conference	Korea	Asia (Far East)
2016	Symposium	Malaysia	Asia (Far East)
2014	Conference	Spain	Europe (S. West)
2012	Symposium	Turkey	Europe (S. East)
2010	Conference	South Africa	Africa
2008	Symposium	Norway	Europe (N. West)
2006	Conference	China	Asia (Far East)

2004	Symposium	China (Hong Kong)	Asia (far East)
2002	Conference	Australia	Oceania
2000	Symposium	Singapore	Asia (Far East)
1998	Conference	Germany	Europe (N. West)
1996	Symposium	The Netherlands	Europe (N. West)

Looking at the table it is clear that during the last years the desirable balance between continents/sub-continents was not achieved

4 WHAT IS THE BURDEN OF A CONFERENCE OR SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOST?

Although hosting an IALA Conference or Symposium seems to be a financial burden, past experiences demonstrate that a host does not suffer from a financial loss. Besides the fee paid by the attendees there are many sponsorship opportunities, as illustrated in the draft Guidelines, and IALA Conferences and Symposia are very popular among IALA Industrial Members, which do not hesitate in sponsoring some of the event items, and also among local companies.

In addition to these opportunities hiring professional event organisers is beneficial to the host. Such very experienced companies are of a great help in identifying cost effective actions enabling the host to achieve a successful event while keeping the costs within their budgetary constraints.

It should also be noted that, naturally, the IALA Secretariat is available for any kind of assistance.

5 ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to consider the matter of the hosting of the next Symposium or Conference and request the Secretary General to approach IALA National Members, by any means he thinks appropriate, in order to promote IALA Conferences and Symposia and attract invitations.