

## IALA COUNCIL 62<sup>nd</sup> session



**21-24 June 2016**  
**Lisbon**  
**Portugal**

### 13 – IALA WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

#### *13.2 – Future actions*

#### **AtoN training strategy and programme**

Note by the World-Wide Academy

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

From 2012 onwards, the Academy worked closely with the IALA technical Committees (principally EEP – now ENG) to develop 2 levels of AtoN model courses. Level 1 was for potential AtoN managers; Level 2 for technicians. It remains Academy policy for AtoN model courses to be delivered by Accredited Training Organisations, however in 2012, just one AtoN ATO existed. The Academy, focussed on a train-the-trainer strategy, decided therefore to deliver its own one-month Level 1 course in IALA Headquarters in 2014 based on the full syllabus set out in model course E-141/1. This required a full suite of training documentation to be produced, including 48 MS PowerPoint lectures; tests of competency and feedback procedures. This training resource was offered free of charge under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to the national Competent Authorities of countries that had requested the Academy to facilitate the accreditation of training organisations in their nations.

#### **2. TRAINING FACILITATION**

At the end of 2015, training MOUs or equivalent agreements had been signed with France, China and Spain which permitted those pro-active States to deliver formal Level 1 AtoN manager training; the first two in their national languages. Taken together with a Level 1 course delivered by the Academy in 2015, a total of 74 personnel from 39 countries now possess a full internationally accredited AtoN manager certificate. The final Level 1 course to be delivered by the Academy at IALA Headquarters is scheduled for mid-2016. Fourteen more AtoN managers from 11 nations are likely to be added to this list. Level 1 courses will also be delivered by France (in French) and China (in English) in 2016 which will increase the numbers of certified AtoN managers still further.

MoUs have also been signed with the Republic of Korea and the Pacific Community based in Fiji. Potential training MoUs or equivalent agreements are being developed with Argentina; Canada; India; Malaysia; Suriname; South Africa and the United Kingdom. It is anticipated that by mid-2017 there will be one or more ATOs delivering Level 1 and/or Level 2 courses in each of the Academy's 5 target regions. The Academy will then focus on facilitating such training (including maintaining and updating the suite of training documentation) rather than delivering the training itself. The exception will be the on-going delivery of the annual one-week training seminar on risk management.

#### **3. DISTANCE LEARNING**

Fully certified AtoN managers in both the Competent Authorities and AtoN service providers is a requirement for the supervision and delivery of such services to full international standards. Many developed and developing nations cannot easily send potential AtoN managers on a full one-month course. The Academy therefore ran a pilot scheme to examine whether distance learning for



experienced but uncertified AtoN managers was feasible. Two volunteers were sent MS Word and PowerPoint-based lessons for Module 1 (international Organisations) and Module 2 (nautical knowledge/introduction to AtoN) of the five-module Level 1 course. The volunteers completed the 3 month course of study in time to sit a written test of competence in IALA Headquarters. Both passed well and were awarded complementary certificates of competency for those Modules. They then volunteered to study Module 4 (technical aspects of AtoN) and Module 5 (power supplies) using the same method. Their feedback was used to enhance the distance learning process. A second more extensive trial with 6 participants studying Modules 1 and 2 will be run in parallel with the 2 original volunteers taking Modules 4 and 5. The tests of competency will be taken in October 2016. It is expected that formal distance learning of the four Modules for a wider audience will commence in early 2017. A registration fee of €1,000 will be charged for the training package and tests of competency will be sat either in IALA Headquarters or in the nearest ATO.

Module 3 (AtoN management) does not lend itself to distance learning. It is therefore intended to run four-working day Module 3 courses annually in both IALA Headquarters and selected ATOs. Because Module 3 ends with a major planning exercise incorporating knowledge gained during the other 4 Modules, participants must hold complementary certificates for Modules 1 and 2; 4 and 5 before they attend the Module 3 course. The registration fee for the Module 3 course will be €650 – the same as for the risk management training seminar.

#### 4. SPONSORSHIP

A number of national and international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO); China MSA; Puertos del Estado, Spain and the Republic of Korea have generously sponsored participants on Level 1 AtoN manager courses. However the IMO will not generally sponsor participants on short courses such as the planned risk management seminar or Module 3 course. It is hoped that Council Members may consider sponsoring the registration fees of one or more participants from developing countries undertaking the distance learning Modules. It is also hoped that they may consider sponsoring the economy-class return airfare; accommodation and per diem cost for participants to attend either the five-day risk management training seminar or the four-day Module 3 course. The average budgetary cost for such a sponsorship package is estimated to be in the region of €2,000. A sponsorship package to enable a candidate to attend a full one-month course at one of the ATOs delivering such training might cost €10,000. Council members may consider sponsoring candidates from developing countries with whom they have strong diplomatic ties to gain full certification on such a one-month course.

Details of the dates of all Academy facilitated AtoN courses are shown on the Action Plan which can be downloaded from the IALA website.

#### 5. SUMMARY

Formal AtoN training based on IALA model courses has developed considerably since 2012. A number of ATOs have been established in key regions around the world. To enable more potential certified managers to gain their international certificates, a distance learning programme has been introduced. Achievement of certificates cannot be conducted for free and sponsorship opportunities have been identified for Council Members or their national Governments to permit potential managers to gain full certification as Level 1 AtoN managers on either distance learning or full time courses. This will enable developing States to meet their international obligations and contribute directly to the safety of navigation world-wide.

#### 6. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

**Note** the report.