

IALA COUNCIL 62nd session



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14 – INTERNATIONAL

14.6 – APHoMSA

Report by the Secretariat on APHoMSA (14-17 March 2016)

1. APHoMSA

The Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies held its 17th session from 14 – 17 March 2016 under the chairmanship of Mr. Keith Manch, CEO of Maritime New Zealand. In general the APHoMSA is a very interesting forum established in 1996. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is providing the Secretariat for the meetings. IALA is one of 8 standing observer organisations.

The following agenda items were of particular note:

- Regional Cooperation
- Safety at Sea
- Maritime Incident Response

2. REGIONAL COOPERATION

The secretariat of APHoMSA provided an updated list of all regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The list and the comments to the list showed clearly the value of the IALA World-Wide Academy in this region and also the “delivering as one” with the sister organisations IMO and IHO.

The list will be updated in March and September and is available for viewing and reference by APHoMSA members on the website www.aphomsa.org.

IALA provided a paper introduced by the Secretary-General. The paper had the following conclusion:

1. IALA has clear goals to achieve before its 21st Conference in 2026. These include making the remaining 16 Target States in the APHoMSA region aware of their international obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 12 and 13; conducting technical needs assessment mission to those States and facilitating a number of both VTS and AtoN training hubs in the APHoMSA region.
2. IALA’s capacity building and training activity is delivered by the IALA World-Wide Academy; an integral, but mainly independently funded pillar of IALA. “Stage 1 to 4” missions are delivered free of charge to Target States. This could not have been achieved without the superb and generous support of its principal sponsors and in-kind contributions from its Member States and international organisations such as the IMO.
3. Close liaison with the IMO and IHO under the United Nations banner of “delivering as one” and with organisations such as LINZ and SPC are facilitating the delivery of capacity building and training, particularly to the PICT States.
4. The IALA WWA came of age in 2015 and is now embarking on an ambitious programme to improve the safety of navigation in the APHoMSA region. The support of established APHoMSA members to assist this programme is seen as key to its success.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority provided a paper on the regional delivery of information to the maritime community via online portals and the potential to make greater use of these systems to



improve decision-making. The paper stressed the importance of harmonizing such initiatives for instance by using the IHO S-100 data standards.

3. SAFETY AT SEA

The representative from Singapore gave an update on the SOMS Marine Electronic Highway project that is about to be operative. The results will be very important for the future of e-Navigation and should be followed carefully by the ENAV Committee.

The Republic of Korea offered to host a regional e-Navigation Underway Conference in cooperation with IALA and the Danish Maritime Authority. The conference is scheduled for 2017 and will cover the following topics:

- E-Navigation service for non-SOLAS ships;
- Maritime digital infrastructure in coastal waters;
- Test bed projects for e-Navigation services and technologies; and
- The status of governmental e-Navigation development.

IALA supported the proposal and promised assistance to the organisers.

4. MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE

Japan Coast Guard provided a paper and briefed about an ambitious project to reduce maritime accidents by 50 % by 2018. This should be achieved by:

- Integration of VTS centre and port control offices and establish a single maritime traffic control organisation in Tokyo Bay.
- Effective use of virtual AIS.
- Improved safety measures for small vessels, including fishing vessels.
- Optimizing physical navigational aids in consultation with users.
- Enhanced disaster response measures.
- Taken the lead (JCG) in development of the next-generation AIS (VDES).

It will be very interesting to follow this project and hopefully the Japanese delegation will brief about the results at a future meeting.

5. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the report.