

IALA COUNCIL
62nd session



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11 – IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

11.4 – ENAV

IALA Workshop on the Development of VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

IALA and the Japan Coast Guard (JCC) hosted a workshop on the subject of the development of VHF data exchange system (VDES) in Tokyo, Japan, from 15th and 19th February 2016.

The workshop was attended by 63 delegates, representing 20 countries with an attendance of 143 at the open forum on day 1. There was a high attendance from agencies in the Asia / Pacific region indicating a high level of interest in VDES.

The full report of the workshop is available on the IALA web site at <http://www.iala-aism.org/products/publications/category.html?category=53e40602999ad981bd6a9fc705451b52>.

2. PROCESS

The workshop was structured as an open forum on day 1 with a series of 10 presentations. Day 2 commenced with a plenary discussion session followed by working group sessions which continued on day 3. A technical study tour to the Japan National Maritime Research Institute and Japanese culture was made on day 4 and conclusions were agreed on day 5.

Attendees enjoyed a welcome reception on day 1 and a workshop dinner on day 3 hosted by the Japan Aids to Navigation Authority (JANA).

3. KEY OUTPUTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

The workshop developed a draft Guideline on the VDES Operational Concept with technical annex and draft FAQ on VDES.

The workshop also prepared a draft input paper for IMO MSC97 regarding VDES performance standards.

The output documents were forwarded to the 18th session of the IALA ENAV Committee (ENAV18) for further development and completion.

4. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

The workshop generated seven conclusions.

- 1 In order to ensure a successful IALA intervention at WRC 2019, IALA members should engage with their national ITU representatives ensuring that they understand and support the VDES solutions proposed by IALA.
- 2 IALA needs to develop structured documentation and promotion plan on VDES with clear guidance on implementation for the benefit of IALA membership.
- 3 IALA should provide an information paper on VDES to IMO MSC96 to update IMO on the progress made in the development of the VDES.



- 4 There is a need for a high degree of integrity for the VDES service. Cyber security should be provided in the application layer.
- 5 While the technical solutions for a VDES are being developed, installation of VDES shore stations and provision of VDES services is critical to the success of the VDES.
- 6 Progress is being made with development of VDES equipment and 11 participants are currently planning or developing VDES prototype equipment. IALA should partner with those who are prototyping VDES equipment to develop parameters for test methods and reporting.
- 7 Given the high participation and interest from the Asia / Pacific and other regions, consideration should be given to additional IALA workshops on the VDES in this and other regions.

5. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

The Council is requested to note the outcome of the workshop and to consider the conclusions in relation to the work of IALA.