

12 – OTHER IALA GROUPS

12.4 – Heritage Forum

Heritage Forum 3rd meeting

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

IALA had established, as part of its work programme 2014-2018, a Heritage Forum where National Authorities in charge aids to navigation can meet with other parties interested in lighthouse heritage.

The 3rd meeting of the Heritage Forum (HF3) was the last regular meeting of the Forum, before discussions on technical issues were reintegrated into the ENG Committee at the 4th session of this Committee. This decision was taken after the Forum Chair was due to retire and no proper successor was identified.

The Forum will be revived when needed if the ENG Committee identifies specific issues requiring external expertise, and would take the form of Seminars addressing such specific issues.

Action items and work tasks presented in the abbreviated report below will be dealt with, where appropriate, by the ENG Committee.

2. THIRD MEETING OF THE HERITAGE FORUM

HF3 was held at IALA Headquarters on 17th and 18th November 2015. Eight delegates were in attendance and six regular attendees had sent apologies.

3. DETAIL

3.1. Heritage Forum Programme: Attendees were reminded about documents discussed and amended at HF1 detailing the IALA Strategy in relation to Heritage and the Forum Structure within the ENG Committee.

3.2. As had been mentioned at the previous meeting Bob McIntosh had indicated his intention to retire in January 2016. Simon Millyard, Chair of the ENG Committee joined the meeting to brief the attendees on the options for the Heritage Forum after it had become clear that no one had felt able to take on the role of chair. The continuation of the Heritage forum as a separate entity would be possible but without a clear leader this could prove difficult. The alternative put forward was to create an additional task group under the auspices of Working Group 2 of the ENG Committee headed by Adam Hay. This would allow the heritage work of the forum to continue whilst also supporting the building and civil engineering work of WG2 on subjects such as modern technology in Heritage Lighthouses and equipment and maintenance of lighthouse structures. Neil Jones of Trinity House has agreed to take a lead role on heritage matters under Task Group 4 and will liaise with the working group chair to finalise the work programme. This allows the Forum to access the Secretariat support to the Committee and to support the heritage related work tasks of the ENG Committee. Some discussion took place on the benefits or disadvantages of the proposed move but the consensus agreed that this proposed move to WG2 was the best way forward to retain IALA's contribution to Historic Lighthouse Conservation through the Heritage Forum.

3.3. Attendees reported on interesting matters that were happening in their countries.



In Scotland Bob McIntosh provided some information on the latest project he was managing to convert one of **Scotland's** oldest and significant lighthouses from diesel cycle charge to solar power. The building is unusual (for Scotland) that it is a gothic style rectangular building with the lantern on top. A great deal of discussion was had with heritage and environment groups to achieve the least impact by the solar array. Once the works are complete it is proposed to remove all the old equipment and discontinue the on-site accommodation as plant maintenance visits will be shorter and less frequent with daily access by boat as required.

He also mentioned that he had received an email from Mark Watson of Historic Scotland congratulating IALA in providing a forum for Lighthouse Authorities around the world to allow them to come together to allow them to share ideas about the preservation of their own heritage which is an example to other transport and communication industries.

In **France** the Association of Cordouan Lighthouse organised a seminar including several visits to lighthouses in the region for approximately 70 representatives from all over France who are involved in the running of lighthouses and associated projects and including some international guests. Sufficient funding support was received from the local authority and the Lighthouse Administration to minimise the cost to attendees.

In **England** a new visitor centre was opened at Portland Bill Lighthouse and a project is currently under way to develop a new visitor centre at Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands.

In **Malaysia** a Conservation Project at Pulau Undan Lighthouse, Melaka is currently underway. Some unexpected problems have caused slight delays but these are being overcome. The project is due to finish shortly. A lighthouse open day is also becoming a regular feature on the third week of August with one lighthouse being selected and opened to the public and with competitions and small museum exhibits to encourage visitors to come. Presentations were made and are included under section 7, on both these subjects.

In **Norway** a new film has been prepared covering a network of maritime museums around Scandinavian and other Baltic countries and this was shown to the group during the presentations. Coastlight.net continues to attract additional contributions to the project to create a web based maritime and coastal history location.

In **Ireland** the great lighthouses of Ireland website which can be found at <http://www.greatlighthouses.com> includes details of those lighthouses where accommodation is available. They have also recently come across The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group which was set up in May 1997. Since then the group has been meeting regularly to exchange information and develop ideas. In particular, they have looked at how to create safe access to the countryside in ways that do not spoil the landscape and heritage, or lessen the visitor's sense of exploration and adventure. <http://vscg.org/>

3.4. There was significant discussion on the evaluation of historic lighthouses although unfortunately Marisa Marco from Puertos del Estado was unable to travel to the meeting this time so the proposed information on the subject from Spain was not presented. However a copy of the paper presented at A Coruna conference by Juan Francisco Rebollo gave an interesting summary of what has been done in Spain. Jo van der Eynden was requested to consider how different countries evaluate their historical lighthouses with a view to deciding which are most important and to submit a paper with the support of other participants

At a previous meeting it had been suggested that a register of equipment in use or previously installed in different countries lighthouses might provide comparisons and assist in documenting historical or in use equipment especially when considering international equipment suppliers.

Work tasks for the future were identified as follows:



- Reviewing and updating of existing guidelines and the IALA Lighthouse Conservation manual – including publishing a web based version with access for members and other interested parties.
- Further research and guidance on the adaptation and use of existing equipment and buildings for installation of modern technology
- Many countries now require record keeping documenting the changes to historic buildings and the working group believe that this should be encouraged as good practice in all historic lighthouses for future information. Comparison of different methods of record keeping and documenting changes in buildings and equipment as installed, removed or adapted could provide members with guidance on best practice.
- Heritage and building related terms in the IALA Dictionary to be researched, reviewed and added to where required.
- IALA to continue to support Lighthouse Heritage Seminars as one of the most successful areas of the work carried out by the working group and to increase the profile of the events and assist in providing input to other working group work items.
- Review and update Guideline No. 1076 (Dec-09 Ed 1) on Building maintenance and conditioning in low energy environments to include guidance on low power ventilation systems and avoiding condensation.

Holding a Heritage Seminar in 2017 was also considered.

4. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

note the report and the reintegration of regular work on heritage issues in the ENG Committee.