



IALA COUNCIL 62nd session



21-24 June 2016
Lisbon
Portugal

13 – IALA WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

13.2 – Future actions

VTs training the trainer at the ARSTM

Note by the World-Wide Academy

Establishment of a training for trainers delivering VTS operators courses within the “Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer” – Abidjan – Côte d’Ivoire.

Pursuant to SOLAS Convention, Chapter V, Regulation 12, and Resolution A.857 (20) adopted for its implementation, as well as the IALA Recommendation V-103, the operational personnel serving in the VTS should all receive a specific training and be certified to perform their duties. The development of VTS in Africa increased the demand for training, but it cannot always be satisfied. Candidates have to leave the African continent to be trained. The aim of the project described below is to build on the existence of two regional maritime academies, in Abidjan for French speakers and in Accra for English speakers, to create conditions for organizing training sessions for VTS operators (VTSO) closer to the needs. This training is framed by the IALA Recommendations and can last between 2 and 14 weeks, depending of the background and the prior knowledge of candidates. For example, a merchant marine deck officer with good knowledge of English will be formed in two weeks, while a person with no maritime knowledge would require more time to be trained. In general, when possible, it is of course recommended to recruit candidates having a seafarer background.

After two visits to Côte d’Ivoire in 2015, it appeared that the Ivorian organizations involved were prepared to study the implementation of a training project in Abidjan for Francophone countries of the West and Central Africa Region. These organizations are the Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM) which would deliver the VTS training, the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), its parent body, the Directorate General of the Port Autonome d’Abidjan (PAA) which would provide part of the teaching staff and its experience, and the Directorate General for Maritime and Port Affairs (DGAMP), which would be responsible for accrediting and approving the training courses as the National Authority. The IALA World-Wide Academy (IALA WWA) offered its support for the establishment of such training in the ARSTM, which was recently equipped by the International Maritime Organisation of a multifunction simulator of the latest generation, an essential tool for the training of VTSO. IALA has also indicated that if this project succeeds, it would be ready to repeat the operation in Accra for the English speaking people, as well as to multiply the various training courses recommended by IALA, in both Academies.

The only real problem is that there is no trainer specialized in the field of VTS at the ARSTM. Therefore, it is necessary to start by setting up a training of trainers session. As a first step, the IALA World-Wide Academy has approached the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM) in Marseilles which has already formed some VTSO for the Port of Abidjan. Very logically, the ENSM made a proposal corresponding to its standards, that is to say those used for the training of trainers in the context of complex operational centres, which did not address the African reality of today. In particular, it asked that the candidates have three years of service as supervisor of VTS; such



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experimented officers does not yet exist because the establishment of VTS in the Sub-Saharan African countries is recent.

It was then decided to seek a solution adapted to the local context by training the future trainers directly at the ARSTM, possibly by making up for the deficit of experience by a longer training time, while referring to the IALA Guidelines 1103 "Train the Trainer". The feasibility of such a project involves firstly the expertise of an experienced teacher for VTS training, secondly to ensure that the four aforementioned organizations confirm their willingness to collaborate in the project, and finally to establish a budget that allows to seek the necessary funding.

To ensure the feasibility of the project and study its conditions, an assessment mission went to Abidjan and met with the leaders of MOWCA, ARSTM, PAA and DGAMP. MOWCA has kindly undertaken the coordination of the visits and has supported the Abidjan transport. The mission took place from March 29 to April 1 and was very positive. It was led by the Dean of the IALA World-Wide Academy, accompanied by Mr. Marc Di Salvo, one of the Professors in charge of the VTS training in the ENSM of Marseilles. The fact that the mission was received successively by the Secretary General of MOWCA, the General Director of ARSTM, the General Director of the PAA and the Director of the Maritime Safety – DGAMP, shows the importance that these high authorities attach to this project. They all have also confirmed their wishes that it be completed as soon as possible and expressed their readiness to fully contribute, up to the extent of their means and their respective responsibilities.

During discussions, it was stated that IALA would contribute to the project with the understanding that it was limited to the training of trainers phase and did not cover the next phase of VTSO training. This is indeed the responsibility of ARSTM to organize and deliver training for VTSO taking into account the requests made by the Maritime Authorities of the countries of the Region.

During the train the trainers phase, the intervention of IALA, in addition of technical advice to implement the project, will be limited to the provision and funding of an experienced teacher who will assume the responsibility for the training part. On the other hand, the time of presence of trainees (future trainers for the VTS operators) will remain under the responsibility and funding of the agencies to which they belong for the duration of the course. A priori, should participate to the training 2 or 3 officers provided by the PAA, 4 or 3 professors from ARSTM, plus a representative of DGAMP. The total number of participants should not exceed seven. The choice of the personnel involved in this training belongs to organizations that make them available. However, they must meet criteria discussed with IALA WWA and be distributed as follows in view of the different modules to address:

English + SMCP	ARSTM
VHF / GMDSS / EQUIPMENT	ARSTM
Communication / Coordination	ARSTM
Traffic management	PAA / ARSTM
Nautical knowledge	PAA / ARSTM
Simulator	PAA / ARSTM
Emergency situation	PAA
Operator quality	PAA

It worth to note that exercises have already been created by an Abidjan port pilot who also has a good command of the simulator.

The premises used will be made available to trainees either by the ARSTM or by the PAA, depending on the subjects taught. Both organizations will support the respective corresponding costs. The simulator of the ARSTM will be made available as required. It is expected that in the coming weeks,



the simulator will be completely made operational, in particular by reinforcing the power supply that is now suffering from instability. This multi functions simulator is a TRANSAS brand and is the same model as the one installed in the ENSM of Marseilles.

Training would take place over four weeks with two sessions of two weeks each separated by a few weeks to allow the students to improve their knowledge on specific topics when necessary, especially the SMCP (Standard Maritime Communication Phrases). A third two-week period would correspond to the support of the trainers when issuing their first course of VTSO and to the completion of the accreditation process of ARSTM together with the approval of the VTSO course by DGAMP. If necessary, a short stay of three days could also be planned prior to the training of trainers cycle to meet the selected candidates, to finalize the program based on their qualifications, to become familiar with the use of the ARSTM simulator and to prepare the first exercises.

The estimated budget for the intervention of the IALA WWA (essentially to support the teacher and the cost of his/her travels and his/her accommodation as given above) is fifty thousand Euros (50,000 €). The World-Wide Academy will formally commit itself to participate in the program as soon as it has gathered the necessary funds from one or more financial partners (sponsors). It will make every effort so that this phase is completed in 2016 and the first session of training can take place at the latest during the first half of 2017.

This report was submitted to the various project partners and they all validated the results of discussions which took place during the mission.

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the report.