

**IALA COUNCIL**  
**64<sup>th</sup> session**



**13-16 June 2017**  
**Incheon**  
**Republic of Korea**

**AGENDA ITEM 7 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**1. GENERAL**

This document provides a general update on a number of matters in relation to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

The activity and workload of IALA continues to grow, with the calendar for this and next years already filled. The membership of IALA has grown to 277 which is 11 more members than at the same time last year, 2 of them being National Members, 6 Industrial and 3 Associate. The participation in the Committee work is overwhelming with up to 140 participants in some sessions.

There has been extensive communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France on the change of status to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) and a very successful preparatory Diplomatic Conference was convened on 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Projects have been started to prepare the Secretariat for IGO status. Also invitation to the preparatory Diplomatic Conference and a communication package about the IGO project has been send to members and relevant stake holders.

The work on a new visual image for IALA has been finalized and the modernization of the HQ facilities has started and will be finalized during the summer period 2017.

**2. THE STRATEGIC VISION**

The Strategic Vision for IALA was approved by Council in December 2013 and the Committees commenced work in accordance with the Vision in 2014. Councillors will recall that the Strategic Vision has two Goals for 2026, a Strategy to reach these, and Priorities for work in the 2014-2018 period.

A review of the Strategic Vision 2014-2026 was completed by the Policy Advisory Panel (PAP) at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session in April 2017 and an input document to this session of Council carries the PAP recommendation for a revised Strategic Vision for 2018-2026. In this draft the Purpose is altered to that in the Constitution, the two Goals are adjusted to reflect the IALA definition of “marine aids to navigation” but their meanings remain unchanged, and revision of Strategies is proposed to take account of progress in the 2014-2018 period and the changing technical and economic environment.

Work by the Secretariat and by the PAP at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session has developed a proposed Committee structure for 2018-2022. Separate input papers explain the details, with the proposed Committee aligned with the draft revised Strategic Vision and influenced by the logic of the Standards Map.

Standards are a vital feature of the Strategic Vision. If Council approves the draft plan for the first IALA Standards at this Council session, then the Committees and the Technical Operations area of the Secretariat will continue its work on the Standards-Recommendations structure for IALA. In this context, the PAP is now using a new “Recommendations Plan” for planning and managing its work on development of Recommendations.

Approval of the first set of IALA Standards is planned for 2018 at the General Assembly in Korea.



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The final opportunity for approval by Council of the seven draft Standards is session 65 in December 2017.

### 3. MODERNISATION OF IALA

The successful completion of the first phase of refurbishment of all offices and meeting rooms follows on from the comprehensive installation of smart IT and video-conferencing facilities in the latter part of last year. A second and final phase of improvement works is scheduled for the middle of this year.



The reorganization of the available space is particularly welcome in view of the need to optimize usage to suit the different requirements for office work space and storage space. In addition, it has been possible to improve the capacity of the lounge area. This is important in view of the growing membership and its incremental impact on Committee attendance. The Secretariat, too, must be prepared to meet the demands associated with that growth, which also raises the prospect of a potential increase in administrative and technical personnel.

Together, these various projects are an important element in the new visual identity of the Association. Members will recall that in 2016 the decision was taken to redesign the logo of the little mermaid and adopt a new corporate style guide including for all technical documentation. In addition, a complete overhaul of the website has been a high priority to serve the membership even better and present the Association to the wider maritime community as an up-to-date, effective, visible, outreach-oriented and cooperative organization.

To further enhance the corporate identity and presence on social media, IALA has a LinkedIn profile with relevant news from IALA:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/10382981?trk=tyah&trkInfo=clickedVertical%3Acompany%2CclickedEntityId%3A10382981%2Cidx%3A3-1-10%2CtarId%3A1463044233240%2Ctas%3Aiala>

And a LinkedIn Group for technical discussions with more than 2000 followers:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/86242>

Members of the Council are invited to follow IALA on LinkedIn.



#### 4. SECRETARIAT REVIEW

At its 59th session in December 2014, the IALA Council was presented with the review of the IALA Secretariat, a study commissioned by the Secretary-General at the request of the Council at its 56th session. At the 59th session Councillors indicated their appreciation of the review and made a number of comments.

Council directed the Secretary-General to present a regular implementation report to Council under a standing agenda item at each Council meeting.

The Council received an implementation and status report on the project at its 61st meeting held in Dakar in December 2015 with further verbal advice at its 62<sup>nd</sup> session in Lisbon in June this year.

At this session Council noted that it was important to increase the capacity of the Secretariat. The present structure includes one additional position into the technical area, one position in the administrative area and one seconded (IFAN) technical positions in the operations/technical area. It also includes a position for communications on a consultancy basis.

In accordance with the road map on the draft IALA Convention that was agreed at the Preparatory Diplomatic Conference in April 2017 the first possibility of a signing of the IALA Convention will be during the IALA Conference in Incheon in 2018 with possible ratification 1-2 years later in 2020.

In order to be ready for the future status as an IGO there is a need from now until 2020 to recruit one more position in the administrative area (for translation), one more in the technical area and to evaluate the need to shift some positions from part time to full time employees.

This evaluation is of course dependant on the number of working languages IALA will have as an IGO.

The World-Wide Academy is believed to be sufficiently staffed with a permanent Dean, a permanent Programme Manager and two part time advisors, one of them being the Vice-Dean, as well as experts on a consultancy basis.

With these changes the Secretary-General believes that the Secretariat is ready to face the challenges of the increased number of members at meetings, the IGO-status and also to be able to deliver the expected service to the members.

As detailed under agenda 9 (Financial Matters) the growth in membership numbers and the steps taken to run the organisation in a more efficient manner can finance the future size of the Secretariat.

#### 5. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the new Dean Mr. Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug. In line with the ongoing work on ensuring good governance and transparency in IALA, the Academy initiated in 2016 the development of a training and quality management system. The basic framework (Quality Manual) has now been developed and further development of quality procedures for specific processes continues. The system is expected to be fully operational before the end of the year. Formal personnel appraisal procedures have been introduced, and the first round of appraisal meetings has taken place.

The Academy is now actively progressing its ambitious 2017 Action Plan, as well as its new Master Plan, which sets out its main objectives and activities over the next three years.

The Academy recognises the considerable challenge that it has set itself, but is appropriately resourced to meet it. This would not be possible were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from a number of nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA technical committees.

The three-year rolling agreement with IFAN, the primary sponsor of the Academy, has been formalised in a revised funding agreement, ensuring a certain level of continuity for the Academy.



The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and IALA members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.

The Dean will brief in detail under the relevant agenda item.

## **6. THE EFFICIENSEA 2 AND OTHER PROJECTS**

IALA's work as a partner in the EU supported project EfficienSea 2 is proceeding to plan. The initial payment to IALA of €135,000 was received in June 2015, and the second payment of €113,250 was received in May 2017. Dr. Nick Ward of R&RNAV UK is engaged part-time to manage IALA's task in the project, and is being supported by Seamus Doyle. A check of progress made by the IALA team was carried out by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Finance and Administration Manager in April 2017, with advice from Dr. Ward.

The Secretariat continues to employ part-time three expert consultants to carry out work to assist Dr. Ward, and are be focused on the development of VDES technical documentation. These documents will become Project output or deliverable documents, but will then be considered by the ENAV Committee to eventually become draft Recommendations or Guidelines to be approved by this Council. Engagement of an additional expert, to make four, is desirable and being considered but at present all funds are committed. Although unlikely, if additional funds for IALA can be made available by the project management then they could be used on additional VDES documentation. The project is due for completion in April 2018.

The possibility of IALA participating in a project named SAFEMOP, financed by the European Union, has been pursued, but the project application was unsuccessful.

A new opportunity for a Risk Management project has arisen through IFAN. Like SAFEMOP, this new initiative can provide IALA with an opportunity to obtain funding to develop further the IALA Risk Management Toolbox, improving its utility as the internationally recommended Risk Management Toolbox for Aids to Navigation Management Authorities, as well as IALA-NET as the primary source of data for the IALA Risk Management Toolbox. This opportunity will be pursued over the next few months.

## **7. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO**

**Note** the report.