

IALA COUNCIL 65th session



12-15 December 2017
IALA Headquarters

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 next year already filled. The membership of IALA continues to grow and the participation in the Committee work is overwhelming with up to 160 participants in some sessions.

After the successful preparatory Diplomatic Conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France on the change of status to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) there has been extensive communication with the Ministry of Transport of the Kingdom of Morocco for the preparation of the second preparatory Diplomatic Conference in Marrakech 7th to 8th February 2018. Projects have been started to prepare the Secretariat for IGO status. Also invitation to the second Diplomatic Conference and a communication package about the IGO project has been sent to members and relevant stake holders.

The work on a new visual image for IALA and the modernization of the HQ facilities is finalized.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA has grown to 279 which is nine more members than at the same time last year. The movements of membership in the different categories are as follow:

Applications

- Two applications were received for National Membership. One was formally accepted and one is to be confirmed;
- 18 applications were received for Industrial Membership. 13 were formally accepted, three are to be confirmed and two are awaiting approval from China MSA; and
- Seven applications were received for Associate Membership. Four were formally accepted, two are to be confirmed and one is awaiting approval from China MSA.

Resignations and Terminations

- One resignation was received from a National Member;
- Five resignations were received from Industrial members (for a change in business, merging);
- Two resignations were received from Associate Members; and
- Four membership for Industrial Members were terminated.

Reinstatement of membership

One Industrial Member (Corilla Plastics) and one Associate Member (Instituto Nacional de Canalizaciones) have settled their debt and should have their membership formally reinstated by the Council.



3. 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 33rd 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 33rd 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 the Republic of Korea.

The final opportunity for approval by Council of the seven draft Standards is at this session of the Council.

4. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

On the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Republic of France, IALA’s host country, a preparatory diplomatic conference took place in Paris from 18th to 19th April 2017 to consider the concrete steps needed to achieve IALA’s planned change of status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization.

Chaired by His Excellency, Mr Serge Ségura, French Ambassador for the Oceans, the Conference agreed a Roadmap towards a Diplomatic Conference to adopt a new treaty instrument with the next preparatory Diplomatic Conference planned 7th- 8th February 2018 in Marrakech in Morocco.

The large attendance at the Paris conference set the scene for two days of active participation by 173 delegates representing 56 countries from around the world where IALA has National members. The programme was designed to widen understanding and allow for an open exchange of views and comments on various aspects pertaining to the transition of IALA as an Association under French law to effective IGO status.

A special session on cooperation with other international organizations benefited from presentations by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr Kitack Lim, and the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organization, Mr Robert Ward. Both emphasized the importance of the long-established cooperation between the IMO, the IHO and IALA as partner international organizations and expressed the wish for the IALA-IHO-IMO ‘trinity of excellence’ to continue into the future.

The main outcome of the conference was a clear indication of a genuine willingness to move forward towards multilateral negotiations at a follow-up conference with the widest possible participation.



5. MODERNISATION OF IALA

The successful completion of the 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 was carried out in 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.

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.

6. 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. With the latest reorganization and employment of Mr. Minsu Jeon from the Republic of Korea as Technical Operation Manager the recommendations from the review have now been implemented.

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

In order to be ready for the future status as an IGO there is a need to recruit at least 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. It is estimated that each additional language requires at least one person for translation equivalent to 110.000 € pr. language (social charges etc.) + additional part time translation and interpreters.

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 it is believed 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.

7. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the 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. A Quality Manual and a Training Manual have now been developed and the quality management system is operational. Formal personnel appraisal procedures have been introduced, and the second round of appraisal meetings will take place in first quarter of 2018.

The Academy is now finalizing 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.

8. 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 Mr Seamus Doyle. A check of progress made by the IALA team was carried out in October 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 these three are 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.

A new opportunity for a Risk Management project has arisen through IFAN. 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.

9. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the report.