

IALA COUNCIL 72nd session



8 -10 December 2020
Video conference

6 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. GENERAL

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

The membership of IALA is growing even after termination by Council of several members for non-payment and the interest in the Committee work is very satisfying. Unfortunately, most of the Committee meetings and other important events in the spring were cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus, but the Committee meetings, PAP and LAP in September/October were carried out virtually with an excellent result.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (The Kuala Lumpur Convention) is planned to be opened for signatures by the depositary in November 2020 and remain open for the next 12 months.

The e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific Conference was hosted virtually by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of South Korea in corporation with IALA with an overwhelming participation. More than 700 people joined the event. One of the recommendations of the conference was to change the name and scope of the series of conferences to Digital@Sea with the first conference in Copenhagen in early 2021.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA consists of 309 National, Industrial and Associate members, which is nine members more than at the same time last year, and after termination of several memberships for non-payment. The movements in membership in the different categories since C71 are as follow:

Applications

- Six applications were received for Industrial membership.; five were provisionally accepted and are to be confirmed by the Council; one is awaiting approval.
- Four applications were received for Associate membership; three were provisionally accepted and are to be confirmed by the Council; one is awaiting approval by the Council.

Resignations

- One resignation was received from Industrial membership



- One resignation was received from Associate membership

Members in arrear

Three National members remain suspended for non-payment of their contributions (Algeria, Rep of Congo and Nigeria). To help them solve their debts, the previous years were waived for Algeria and Rep of Congo and only the 2019 remained due in addition to the 2020 contribution. After four years of silence, Algeria has contacted the Secretariat in February this year and explained that after a difficult time they will be able to fulfil their obligations soon. They also expressed their will to remain a member. Nigeria has also informed the Secretariat in February of a new management within their organization and promised to settle their due as soon as possible. However, these countries have still not made any payment to date. Therefore, with the recommendations of the auditors, they have not been issued their calls for contributions for the year 2021 to prevent the increase of their debts.

In addition to that, the number of members in arrears has considerably come down due to a successful collection of debt by the Secretariat after restructuring of the Administrative staff, where Ms. Lorraine Mbong is now the dedicated Membership officer.

Membership for the following organizations was kept on hold provided that the payment of their debts is received before Council 72: Port Autonome de Douala in Cameroon, La Maquinista Valenciana in Spain, Kosolar in the Republic of Korea and ITO in Italy. The Council should note that Port Autonome de Douala has settled part of their contributions. La Maquinista has also settled part of their debt to stay a member and the remaining due should be solved soon. They are also very thankful to the Council for its flexibility and patience. Therefore, Port Autonome de Douala and la Maquinista in Spain should be kept as Members but Kosolar and ITO should be removed from IALA Membership.

The following organizations are now in the position to be removed from IALA membership for non-payment of their contributions: M/s Navaid Energy Private Ltd, and IRM Offshore and Marine Engineers Pvt Ltd in India; Dongjoo Engineering Co.,ltd , Kosolar, in the Republic of Korea, and ITO S.r.l in Italy.

The COVID19 has significantly affected the global economy. A few members have raised their difficulties to settle the contributions this year or in time. IALA is paying a careful attention to each request and proposals are made on a case by case basis taking into consideration the status of the contributions of the member over the past years.

To encourage new members to join at this period, a free membership is being exceptionally granted also until 31st December 2020 to all new applications received in the last three months.

More details on membership are in the agenda items 9 and 15.

3. DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS – WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The Secretariat with the support of the PAP has implemented special working arrangements for virtual meetings of the Committees and other subsidiary bodies of IALA. These working arrangements are uniform across all committees and are extra-ordinary in nature due to exceptional circumstances that prohibit face-to-face meetings in the usual manner.

Smaller groups like the PAP and LAP have worked virtually using the relevant parts of the arrangements.

Where possible the committees were conducted using the usual procedures in order to maximise familiarity. The general workflow of virtual committees is depicted below:



Conducting meetings virtually gave the opportunity for an increase in real time cross-committee collaboration and enabled participants to work on many different tasks as opposed to a narrower focus on one or two during a weeks session. Committees were also held over a longer period of time and this is particularly beneficial for:

- Accommodating participants across a wide variety of time zones;
- Allowing participants to fit committee work around their other commitments; and
- Enabling sustained work on tasks over a longer and less intensive period of time.

The duration of the Plenary and subsequent meetings e.g. Working Groups etc. are approximately 2 hours per session.

Presentations were facilitated throughout the committee season and advertised to participants to follow online and made available on YouTube.

To support the virtual work of the Committees the web site was improved with a Committee Dashboard <https://www.iala-aism.org/committee-dashboards/> and a new File share system in order to access all relevant information in an easy way.

The autumn committee meetings were very successful and approximately 500 participants were registered for the meetings. I have been encouraged, and am very grateful, for the support of all concerned, not least the committee chairs, vice-chairs and working group chairs, in minimizing the impact on the work programme and advancing the work on important items, through e-mail correspondence and online meetings.

4. THE MID-TERM ASSEMBLY OF THE INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS COMMITTEE

The Mid-Term Assembly of the IMC was held by video conference on the 6 October 2020 from 0900-1100 UTC. The meeting was chaired by the president Mr Marcel Tetu and was attended by 29 participants.

The Industrial members were updated on recent developments in IALA and the World-Wide Academy and on the planned arrangements for the Industrial members during the Conference in Rio in 2022.

The Mid-Term Assembly agreed the draft new Terms of Reference and a road map to develop a Code of Conduct for the Industry. The Terms of Reference and the Code of Conduct will be agreed during the Assembly of the Industrial members in Rio in 2022.

More information will be available under agenda point 10.



5. THE STRATEGIC VISION

An up-dated version of the Strategic Vision for IALA was approved by the General Assembly in May 2018 and the Committees has commenced work in accordance with the Vision. The Councillors will recall that the Strategic Vision has two Goals for 2026, a Strategy to reach these, and Priorities for work in the 2018-2026 period.

The second management-level document which describes IALA's strategy for its technical work is the "Position on the Development of Marine AtoN Services". This document sets out IALA's position or view on the various aspects of the development of Marine Aids to Navigation.

It is also the vehicle for carrying expressions of priority for work items, and stating where IALA will, or will not venture in its AtoN activity.

This position document is a "living document". It has been reviewed and maintained by PAP at least once per annum and commented on and agreed by the Council.

At its 71st meeting in June 2020 the Council agreed the Strategic White Paper named Current Drivers and Trends ed 1.2.

The identified trends and developments are:

1. Increased Digitalization, including big data and future communication;
2. Development of autonomous, automated and unmanned vessels;
3. Need for increased connectivity and interoperability;
4. Cyber-crime vulnerability and cyber security;
5. Changes in trade patterns due to global economic developments;
6. Large cruise ships going to remote locations like the Arctic;
7. Competing use of the oceans (Marine Spatial Planning);
8. Demand for efficiency in the transport chain; and
9. High demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly operations and development.

Based on this paper and possible future changes the Secretariat and the PAP will prepare the strategic update 2022 – 2030 for the next session of the General Assembly.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The Secretariat has mainly been working from home since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The HQ in Saint-Germain-en-Laye is regularly visited in order to ensure the smooth running of the Association and to make sure that all technical facilities are up to date during the major meetings.

With the latest reorganization the IALA and WWA staff now consist of 12 full time employed members and three consultants (two in the WWA section and one for Communication). Ms. Marie-Hélène Grillet has retired in June 2020 and Ms. Virginia Marshall will retire mid-2021.

In order to have a more flexible solution for the HQ it has been investigated if it could be possible to sell the premises in St. Germain-en-Laye and make a 3-years rental contract with the potential new owner. This project has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision at C71 to investigate other solutions before a decision is taken.



7. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT – DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION

The Diplomatic Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25 to 28 February 2020 reached the result it was aiming at. This Conference marked a very important step for IALA as the Convention for the future Organization under intergovernmental status was adopted. More than 239 persons participated or were observers of the conference from 62 States. Delegates with Credentials from 50 States signed the Final Act of the Conference adopting the text of the Convention and two resolutions. One resolution on languages of the Organization and one on the signing ceremony in Paris in November 2020.

The Convention includes robust arrangements for a smooth transition in the annex – Transitional arrangements.

These arrangements will ensure that the activities of IALA's organs and its technical work in the area of Marine Aids to Navigation will continue uninterrupted and that its responsibilities towards the maritime community will be undiminished and maintained with the customary high level of commitment and expertise.

During the diplomatic process it was mentioned several times that it is important to pass a Council Decision through the present Council of IALA to make sure they will act in accordance with the intention in the Transitional Arrangements once the Convention has entered into force.

The Transitional Arrangements specify roles for the President, Vice President, the Council, The Secretary-General, the Secretariat and the Organs of IALA in the transition period.

A draft Council Decision is prepared by the Secretariat assisted by the LAP for consideration at the Council meeting.

The General Regulations are prepared in a draft based on the adopted Convention and will be approved at the first General Assembly of the Organization. The draft General regulation and its Financial Regulations were made available as an information paper at the Conference.

A draft HQ Agreement is prepared by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. This will be discussed in the Legal Advisory Panel and finalized in due time before the entry into force of the Convention.

It is the intention of the Depository, the French Government, to sign the Convention in November and open the Convention for signatures for the next 12 month. A detailed plan will be ready before the Council meeting in December and more information could then be available.

8. PREPARATION FOR THE 14TH SYMPOSIUM AND THE 20TH CONFERENCE

Unfortunately, the 14th Symposium planned the 25 to 29 May 2020 in Rotterdam had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the uncertainty of the future situation, The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management has decided to host the Symposium as a virtual event in the spring 2021.

The preparations for the 20th Conference to be held 28 May to 4 June 2022 at the Windsor Convention Centre in Rio de Janeiro is progressing well.

The first meeting of the Steering Group for the preparation of the Conference has been held and the Industrial Members Committee held a successful meeting in Rio de Janeiro last year and inspected all the possible facilities to ensure a successful Exhibition and Industrial Members evening in Rio.

The Council members from the Netherlands, Brazil and the IMC will give more details during the relevant agenda point.



9. E-NAVIGATION UNDERWAY – DIGITAL@SEA CONFERENCES

The e-Navigation Underway (ENUW) initiative complements the e-Navigation work carried out by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), supported by a wide range of concerned stakeholders and with the IMO acting as the leading coordinator to ensure a global approach to e-Navigation developments.

The e-Navigation Conference series is coordinated by IALA, in close cooperation with the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA), The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), The United States Coast Guard (USCG) and international organizations, in particular, the IHO, RTCM, CIRM, BIMCO and the NI.

These conferences are concerned with gathering stakeholder opinions and facilitating the exchange of views and experiences, with a focus on user needs and on supporting the human element, which is also a central concern of the IMO. Each conference produces a set of highlights for the guidance of stakeholders and to further progress e-Navigation in IALA and elsewhere.

There have been several meetings between DMA, MOF, USCG AND IALA with the purpose of transforming the ENUW series of Conferences into a new format: Digital@Sea.

The main purpose of this transformation is to open the Conferences to a broader digital agenda for the Maritime sector and not be restricted to “only” e-Navigation.

It is also agreed to establish a Capacity Building Workshop that fits very well with the work of the IALA World-Wide Academy and its sponsors, and Digital@Sea Clusters to coordinate the results etc. of the many digital test beds around the world.

It is decided that the first Digital@Sea Conference will be the International one in January/February 2021 in Denmark.

10. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug. The Academy has adapted to the Pandemic situation and is for the time being conducting all its activities online, pursuing its goals through its “Enlighten, Educate and Engage” strategy. While there has been significant activity in all three areas, the Academy has also seized the opportunity to develop and consolidate its distance learning resources and methods. As a result, the Academy is now able to deliver most of its training activities as distance learning.

The many Accredited Training Organisations (ATO's) around the world have been forced to cancel their planned AtoN manager courses due to the Pandemic, but at a recent Seminar arranged by the Academy, it was clear that all active ATO's plan to deliver the AtoN Manager courses in 2021, most probably in the second half of the year.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from several nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA Committees. In 2020 the primary sponsors of the Academy have stood by the Academy, and we thank them all for that. The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.

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

11. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided in the report.