



IALA World-Wide Academy – Progress report and future actions

1. INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGY

Council members will recall that the IALA World-Wide Academy focusses on facilitating the effective implementation of the IALA standards, recommendations, guidelines and model courses by coastal States through education, training and capacity building thereby underpinning the second strategic goal of IALA.

The Academy aims to ensure that all coastal States can fulfil the obligations related to Marine Aids to Navigation placed upon them in Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention and that all coastal States can claim conformance with the relevant IALA standards.

The latest Academy Master Plan for the period 2020 – 2024 articulated three simple means by which the aims and goals of the Academy may be achieved:

① ENLIGHTEN

raise the awareness of high-level decision makers of their international obligations relating to safety of navigation;

② EDUCATE

provide a suite of relevant education and training opportunities for as many as possible; and

③ ENGAGE

pursue long-term capacity building activities with coastal States and provide advice on how to overcome challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the traditional modus-operandi of the Academy in that all face-to-face and on-site activities have been forced to cease. However, the demand for the services of the Academy has consistently remained exceptionally strong and all opportunities to conduct online activities have been seized. As the pandemic loosens its grip, overseas travel can resume, face-to-face and on-site activities will recommence on a case-by-case basis taking full account of the prevailing safety advice at the time.

2. ENLIGHTENING – MAINTAINING CONTACT DURING COVID-19

The Academy has remained active throughout 2021 in the promotion of the SOLAS requirements related to both AtoN and VTS and the benefits of implementing the IALA standards.

The programme of webinars has continued with the successful webinar ‘Point Cardineaux’ with French speaking countries in Africa continuing with a topic on the IALA IGO change of status project. The final webinar in a series on VTS took place concerning VTS authorisation.

A further edition of Academy News was produced focussing on the recent needs assessment mission to the Republic of Lebanon in addition to providing technical input on emergency wreck marking buoys.

The Academy contributed extensively to a webinar marking World Marine Aids to Navigation Day. The webinar featured two Academy Alumni from Chile and Somalia who articulately described the benefits and impact that Academy involvement has had for them personally as well as for AtoN provision in their respective countries.

All webinars are available via the [IALA YouTube channel through this link](#).



Contact has remained strong with sister organisations, particularly those part of the 'UN Delivering as One' partnership. Work has continued with the IMO and the Academy was represented at the recent Technical Cooperation Committee. An intervention was made in support of a joint IALA/IHO/IMO capacity building event in the Caspian Sea. Of note, in their forthcoming programme the IMO plans regional workshops Africa on VTS and AtoN, a national workshop on the safety of navigation in the Pacific Islands and a regional training course on aids to navigation in Latin America. These events will be conducted jointly by IALA/IMO/IHO as appropriate.

Due to delays within the IMO due to COVID-19, it has not yet been possible to discuss a paper that was submitted to the Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping Sub-Committee related to VTS Training for Deck Officers. This will be considered by the Sub-Committee ahead of its meeting in 2022 and serves to promote the IALA standards to a wider audience of IMO Member States. Additionally, the Academy is monitoring the potential new IMO work item on a review of the STCW Code and Convention as a means to potentially revise the AtoN and VTS related content.

The Academy has continued to be represented at various Regional Hydrographic Commissions which have been conducted online. Additionally, the Academy participated as an observer in a PAWSA risk assessment workshop conducted by the Port of Antwerp in October 2021.

3. EDUCATING – DEVELOPING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Significant developments have been made with respect to the education and training activities in terms of the modernisation of existing practices, the development of new courses and materials to support both distance learning and face-to-face training.

The update to the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager course is nearing completion which is supported by a new set of lecture materials, activities and comprehensive supporting textbooks. The course is now less reliant on testing the memory of a student and more focussed on knowledge, understanding and the use of the IALA technical publications.

Other courses within the Level 1 series have also benefited from significant development. The popular Level 1.3 course on the use of the Risk Management Tools has been completely reconfigured for distance learning. Participants are now able to, following a compulsory introductory module, take more detailed and in-depth study on the risk management tools of interest to them. This enables the course to be tailored for the individual needs of a participant and adds value through being able to study each tool in more depth than was previously the case.

Regretfully, apart from Level 1.1 courses held in the United Kingdom and in France during the autumn, no Accredited Training Organizations (ATOs) have delivered training during 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Liaison with the global network of ATOs has been maintained and a series of seminars will be held to update all organisations with the latest developments within the Academy and also to gain information on their plans for 2022. It is hoped that the majority of ATOs will be able to resume operations during 2022.

The Academy has continued to support the ASEAN Regional VTS Training Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Academy was represented at the recent Experts Group meeting which reviewed the programme for VTS training in 2021 and beyond.

The Academy continues to provide support to the VTS Committee in the update of IALA Recommendation R0103 on the training and certification of VTS personnel and its associated guidelines and model courses and also supported the ARM committees in the preparation of a new Guideline on Marine Aids to Navigation Awareness for Mariners.

Work has also been concluded with the VTS Committee to finalise the review of the Guideline on the accreditation and approval process for VTS training to provide a greater degree of harmonisation and quality management of training provision world-wide. It is envisaged to host an online workshop or seminar for VTS ATOs in early 2022.



4. ENGAGING – LONG TERM CAPACITY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Two technical needs assessment missions have been conducted since travel resumed following COVID-19 restrictions. The executive summaries of the reports are provided below:

Mission to the Republic of Lebanon – August 2021

In order to assess the adequateness and effectiveness of the system for delivering Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) services, a technical needs assessment mission was conducted to the Republic of Lebanon (RoL) by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities World-Wide Academy from 2 to 12 August 2021.

The system for delivering Aids to Navigation services in the waters of the RoL was found to be reasonably good, but somewhat incomplete. A number of observations were made, and several technical issues and improvement opportunities were identified.

The mission produced a total of 32 recommended actions, which the Ministry of Transport and Public Work (MTPW) is expected to action at their earliest convenience. Special and urgent attention should be given to the following areas:

- *Repair and restore essential non-operational AtoN in RoL waters*
- *Update the legal framework and description of responsibilities*
- *Ensure sufficient and appropriately trained and qualified staff*
- *Conduct formal risk assessments to justify re-implementation of Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) and implementation of mandatory Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS).*

Mission to the Republic of El Salvador September 2021

In order to assess the adequateness and effectiveness of the system for delivering Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) services, a technical needs assessment mission was conducted to the Republic of El Salvador (RoES) by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities World-Wide Academy from 31 August to 9 September 2021.

The system for delivering Aids to Navigation services in the waters of the RoES was found to have the potential to be able to meet international standards, including IALA standards and recommendations, however, in the course of the mission certain nonconformities were observed. Several improvement opportunities and technical issues to be resolved were identified.

The mission produced a total of 33 recommended actions, which the Ministry of Public Work and Transports (MOPT) is expected to action at their earliest convenience. Special and urgent attention should be given to the following areas:

- *Restore all essential non-operational AtoN in RoES waters as soon as possible;*
- *conduct risk assessments to determine the need for adjustments to the AtoN service provision;*
- *issue navigational warnings on the observed non-conformances as stipulated in this report;*
- *improve and formalise with relevant stakeholders the procedures for promulgating Maritime Safety Information (MSI);*
- *create an adequate regulatory framework between the Autoridad Marítima Portuaria (AMP) and Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma (CEPA) to ensure compliance with international standards related to safety of navigation; and*
- *update all published information regarding the Acajutla VTS to express its actual status.*



5. LOOKING AHEAD

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 well to the pandemic situation and is now slowly resuming its physical travel activity. Given that the Pandemic continues to loosen its grip world-wide, the Academy expects to return to its normal modus operandi in 2022. The Action Plan for 2022 has been populated with numerous physical missions and activities and as the situation improves these will be executed.

It is expected that all active ATO's will try to deliver the AtoN Manager courses in 2022, however online delivery of various Academy courses is expected to continue for some time to come.

6. SPONSOR

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. Again in 2021 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 all IALA members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.

7. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided in this document and provide comments and suggestions.