

## IALA Council 75<sup>th</sup> session



**30 May - 3 June 2022**  
**Copenhagen**  
**Denmark**

### 11.1 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.

The Academy has adapted well to the situation, and is now rapidly resuming its physical travel activity in pursue of our strategic goals through its “Enlighten, Educate and Engage” strategy.

#### 1. ENLIGHTENING – MAINTAINING CONTACT

The Academy has remained active throughout the first half of 2022 in the promotion of the SOLAS requirements related to both AtoN and VTS and the benefits of implementing the IALA standards.

Contact has remained strong with sister organisations, particularly those part of the ‘UN Delivering as One’ partnership. The Academy has continued to be represented at various Regional Hydrographic Commissions which have been conducted online.

Participation in the meetings of several regional hydrographic commissions, and liaising with other participants, has led to new planned technical visits, which hopefully can take place in the latter half of 2022 and first part of 2023.

#### 2. EDUCATING – DEVELOPING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The update to the Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager course is completed, 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, no Accredited Training Organizations (ATOs) have delivered training during the first half of 2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Liaison with the global network of ATOs has been maintained in an effort 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 second half 2022. The Academy has received information that France, Suriname and Morocco, the South Pacific Community (SPC) and perhaps India contemplate delivery of the Aids to Navigation Manager course before the end of the year.

The Academy has continued to support the ASEAN Regional VTS Training Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Academy was represented at the recent VTS Experts Group meeting which reviewed the plans for VTS training in 2022.

The Academy continues to provide support to the technical committees in order to maintain and develop further the IALA model courses and associated guidance on training and certification.

### **3. ENGAGING – LONG TERM CAPACITY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

Close contact has been kept with relevant stakeholders in an effort to strengthen our long-term relationships with coastal States in need of capacity building and technical assistance.

In the first half of 2022, only one face to face technical needs assessment visit has been conducted. This was a visit to Cape Verde, where the Academy provided advice on how to strengthen further the adequateness and effectiveness of their system for delivering marine AtoN services. The team delivered their findings directly to the responsible minister and received excellent response, indicating that the guidance provided will indeed be actioned.

A risk analysis of the current situation relating to a planned visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) resulted in a decision to not conduct the visit at this time. Instead, it was decided to sponsor a small delegation from DRC to attend a preparatory workshop at IALA headquarters. This turned out to be successful, since several uncertainties could be resolved, and a carefully planned technical visit is now scheduled to take place later in the year.

### **4. 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 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 or blended delivery is expected to continue for some time to come.



## 5. SPONSORS

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. All primary sponsors have stood by the Academy, and we thank them 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.

## 6. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

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