

IALA COUNCIL
79th session



11-14 December 2023
IALA Headquarters

10 – TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

10.10 – Digital@Sea

10.10.1 – Digital@Sea conferences

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the last session of the Council, two Digital@Sea (D@S) series conferences and one Digital@Sea Capacity Building workshop have been held. Further information about the initiative can be found at the following website, <http://digitalatsea.org/>.

This paper updates the Council on the results and plans for the year 2023.

2. DIGITAL@SEA NORTH AMERICA 2023

The Digital@Sea North America Conference 2023 was held from 18 to 19 April 2022 at the ALT Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

The event, organized under the auspices of the IALA Digital@Sea series and hosted by RTCM, delved into a comprehensive array of topics. Key highlights included in-depth discussions on the drivers and latest updates in e-Navigation, a critical examination of the evolving regulatory landscape, insightful mariner perspectives on the practicalities and challenges of e-Navigation, broader discourse on maritime digitalization trends, as well as a focused session on the unique challenges and opportunities in Arctic navigation.

3. DIGITAL@SEA ASIA PACIFIC 2023

The Digital@Sea Asia Pacific Conference 2023, held from September 12 to 13, 2023, at the Ambassador Seoul-Pullman Hotel in Seoul, Korea.

The conference, co-organized by the MOF, IALA, and DMA, and supported by entities like IHO, AMSA, and RTCM, offered a diverse and forward-looking program. Discussions ranged from exploring the burgeoning global maritime market, charting the course for new digital services in the maritime sector, to addressing global greenhouse gas reduction and the integral role of maritime digitalization. The event also spotlighted cutting-edge technological advancements poised to revolutionize maritime operations and emphasized the importance of global cooperation in fostering maritime digitalization.

4. PLAN FOR 2024

In 2024, the Digital@Sea initiative will continue its influential series of conferences and workshops. The tentative schedule includes:

- Digital@Sea International on 30 - 31 January 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Digital@Sea North-America on 8 - 9 May 2024 in Atlantic Beach, Florida, US
- Digital@Sea Asia Pacific 2024, TBD
- Digital@Sea Capacity Building workshop 2024, TBD

5. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

NOTE the information provided in this document.

Annex**Conclusion of the D@S Asia Pacific 2023**

1. Looking ahead to 2050, information & automation offer the biggest rewards and the biggest challenges for successful maritime digital transformation. International collaboration and digitalization need to operate in symbiosis to create tangible economic and societal value.
2. In order to organize the global implementation in a way that all actors in international shipping can easily exchange data. Various initiatives are underway to harmonize and standardize this exchange technically and organizationally.
3. The recent IMO decision to adopt a 2023 GHG Strategy with a net-zero goal “by or around” 2050 for the reduction of GHG emissions from international shipping presents a significant challenge for the maritime sector.
4. The journey towards implementing fully autonomous vessels is fraught with significant challenges, to the extent that they may never become a tangible reality. While fully autonomous vessels are not an immediate reality, implementing lower-level autonomous systems that assist navigators enhances situational awareness and cost-efficient routing. To achieve effective development and utilization of stepwise autonomous vessel technology, international cooperation and understanding are crucial.
5. The digitalization of maritime communication is progressing; many ships and maritime services have already introduced or planned to introduce maritime digital communication. It is clear that this digitalization brings numerous benefits such as safer, cleaner, and more efficient navigation, to the maritime community. On the other hand, as digitalization progresses, some new challenges are emerging.
6. Digitalization and collaboration operating in symbiosis allow larger data pools through sharing data for more accurate calculations and robust decisions. As the decarbonization of the maritime industry requires close collaboration between interdependent value chains of adjacent industries and systems, digitalization has become a critical tool. The connected world brings many new economic opportunities and is the only way to deal with global challenges. Therefore, maritime digitalization will only grow.
7. There has never been so much activity and optimism about digitalization. The time for digitalization has been upon us, as many session chairs and speakers have stated.