

IALA COUNCIL 79th session



11-14 December 2023
IALA Headquarters

6.1 - 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 Conference and General Assembly were conducted in Rio de Janeiro from 29 June to 3 July 2023. Both were very successful thanks to the generous and dedicated work of the Brazilian Navy. With a record high number of participants and exhibitors the Conference produced useful conclusions for the future work of the association.

The membership of IALA and the interest in the committee work are very satisfying.

The first committee and panel meetings of the new work period showed again that face-to-face meetings remain IALA's preferred mode of operation. The meetings were very successful with many participants in the HQ and also some participating on-line.

MASS remains an area of interest and concern. A well visited workshop hosted in IALA in October gave good guidance on the future scenarios for the development of autonomous ships. This work will be an input to the MASS task force established by the Council.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation and the transition to an International Organization progress well and as of xx November 25 States have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention and it is expected that more States will follow soon.

The Conference on the General Regulations and Financial Regulations was held in Tokyo 7-11 November 2023 by the invitation of Japan Coast Guard. The Conference was very successful with participation from 40 countries. The Conference managed to agree on a draft text that can be presented to the first General Assembly of the IGO when established.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA consists of 350 members: 96 National, 172 Industrial and 82 Associate, which is 13 members more than last year at the same period after the termination or resignation of some members which took effect from 1 January 2023. The movements in membership in the different categories since C77 are the following:

Applications:

- One new application was received for National membership and provisionally accepted. It is to be confirmed by the Council.



- Fourteen new applications were received for Industrial membership. Thirteen were provisionally accepted and are to be confirmed by the Council; one is to be approved by the Council.
- Three new applications were received for Associate membership. Two were provisionally accepted and are to be confirmed by the Council; one is awaiting Council approval.

Resignations:

- One resignation was received from National membership.
- One resignation was received from Industrial membership.
- One resignation was received from Associate membership.

Members in arrear:

Two National members were notified of the waiving of their suspension by the last Council and of the willingness of IALA to find a compromise. (Algeria and Rep of Congo). However, and although they acknowledged receipt of such a correspondence, no official reaction was observed. The Council may note that the Republic of Congo has signed the Convention on the new IALA and is about to ratify.

Further to the payment of their debts, the Institute of High- Performance Computing in Singapore and the European Space Agency were restored their rights and the Electronics and Telecommunication Research Institute in the Rep. of Korea was reinstated its membership.

The Associate member from Venezuela has raised the difficulty to pay due to the embargo and seeks more time to find a solution.

Despite the successful collection of debt by the Secretariat, the following organizations are now in the position to be removed from IALA as no reaction was observed after they were notified their suspension:

- Whenzou Lighthouse Electronic and Shanghai Spaceflight of TT&C in the People's Republic of China
- Maritime Atlantic Global SAS in Colombia
- Invelco SA in Spain
- CV Sarana Samudra Raya, Keira Surya Kencana, PT. and PT. Lestari Marina Utama in Indonesia
- Offshore Maritime Subsea Advance Technologies Inc.in the *Philippines*
- Geo System Research Corporation and Keumha Naval Technology Co., Ltd in the Rep. of Korea
- Port of Melbourne Corporation in *Australia*
- Nigerian Marine coast Guard

More details on membership are in the respective agenda points.

3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The first meetings of the committees and panels following the Conference were conducted in the IALA HQ in September and October.

The meetings were conducted in a hybrid format with a physical week, including the possibility of on-line participation. After the physical week there was a period for approval of the output documents and a virtual closing plenary the week after. This procedure worked very well and is now reflected in the General Regulations.

The meetings were well attended with an average of 113 participants in each committee meeting and 16 participants on-line.

The results of the work will be presented under the respective agenda points.



4. THE WORK ON MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS)

The development of new technologies, digitalization and automation may rapidly change the way maritime transport works and operates. Development towards fully or partly autonomous ships will pose both opportunities and challenges for the sector in terms of safety, security, sustainability, existing legal frameworks, and operations.

At its 72nd session, the IALA Council discussed the development of MASS and reaffirmed its position that there is a need to increase focus on developing MASS related IALA guidance, and the Council decided to establish a MASS Task Force to assist IALA.

To assist the task force in identifying possible future scenarios while considering the evolution of MASS, a workshop was hosted with expertise from outside of IALA's membership on 2 to 3 October 2023. Such scenarios have, to the knowledge of IALA, not been developed and could also serve to guide other areas of the maritime sector.

The workshop was well attended and the conclusions clear. For many years ahead we will have a mixed fleet of conventional ships with different degrees of automation in combination with an increasing number of MASS. Although perspectives and expectations differ among maritime stakeholders it seems fairly clear that we should not expect to see fully autonomous "high risk ships" like passenger ships and tankers or large ships on international voyage within the timeframe of 20 to 25 years.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The IALA and WWA staff now consist of 12 full-time employed members and nine consultants (eight in the Academy section and one for Communication).

Four students on one-year apprenticeship contract were recruited. One of them has been reappointed as an IT Developer to assist the Technical Operations Manager in improving the existing databases and developing an in-house system adapted to the needs of IALA.

The two other students will be primarily responsible for analyzing AIS DATA and to provide an IT general support to the Secretariat. The last student has been recruited in the administrative section to provide accounting assistance.

6. COMMUNICATION

A Communication Group has been established to improve IALA's internal and external communication. The Terms of Reference for the Group have been finalized in October and the work has started on some items. The main aims and objectives of the group are to re-draft the Communication Policy to make it updated and relevant for the IGO, prepare and execute Communication plans for all major events and projects, ensure that the staff is updated and engaged in the overall communication of IALA with appropriate means, prepare messages and keep the agreed communication channels (e-Bulletin, website, social media etc.) updated, relevant and interesting for the stakeholders, to do regular surveillance of the communication from IALA's stakeholders (Sister org., Ind. members, members, etc.) and also, make sure that the corporate visual identity is followed.

7. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation is ratified, approved, accepted or accessed by 25 States as of 16 November 2023. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after 30 States have deposited their instrument with the French Government. The first General Assembly of



the new IGO has to be convened within 6 months from the day the Convention enter into force. This might happen as soon as late 2024.

The Secretariat has started the detailed preparation for the transition period between the start of the new organization and the termination of the present association. For this purpose and after advice from the LAP, the Secretariat has appointed a French law firm to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period and until the winding up of the Association is complete. The law firm will provide assistance with respect to the administrative formalities required by French law for the transfer of the rights, interests, assets and liabilities in favour of the new IGO.

Singapore has generously offered to host the first General Assembly of the new organization. One of the main points on the agenda will be approval of the General Regulations and Financial Regulations. In order to prepare for this, a Conference was convened in Tokyo from 7 to 10 November 2023. The Conference was very successful and attended by almost 100 participants from 38 countries. The Secretariat had received many comments to the proposed text from participants before the meeting, which were all discussed article by article. The Conference managed to agree on a draft text of the General Regulations and Financial Regulations with only a few areas marked in square brackets for the General Assembly to decide on.

8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Sunny Gug.

In pursue of their strategic goals through its “Enlighten, Educate and Engage” strategy, the Academy has now resumed its physical activities fully to the same level as before the pandemic.

Accredited training organizations in the United Kingdom, France, Morocco, Suriname, India, Colombia and China have delivered or are in the process of delivering the Level 1.1 Aids to Navigation Manager course, and almost 100 new AtoN managers are expected to be certified in 2023.

Furthermore, numerous technical needs assessment missions and reviews have been carried out and the Academy has now conducted more than 50 such missions since its inauguration in 2012.

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.

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

9. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided in the report.