## Preservation of Historic Aids to Navigation

The IALA Advisory Panel on the Preservation of Lighthouses, Aids to Navigation, and Related Equipment of Historic Interest (PHL) was established by the IALA Council in 1996 in response to membership interest in the heritage value of lighthouses. In 2002, this Panel became part of the IALA Committee on Engineering, Environment, and Preservation (EEP).

Objectives:

* to encourage a greater commitment by members to preserve the historic aspects of their service;
* to encourage member countries to see the preservation of their own lighthouses in an international context;
* to share information on the subject between both members and non-members, with particular attention being given to the complementary use of lighthouses;
* to research and document strategies on the conservation of historic lighthouses, particularly in relation to changes in technology and working practices;
* To encourage members interaction with related industries to bring forward common projects in the protection of historic lighthouses.

Examples of work accomplished to date:

* the creation of the format for an IALA database for recording details of historic lighthouses;
* a book, titled “Lighthouses of the World” was published in 1998 with English, French, German and Spanish versions, featuring over 180 historic lighthouses from around the world;
* a Workshop in Kristiansand, Norway on “The Alternative Use of Historic Lighthouses in 2000;
* a Seminar on the “Practical Aspects of Lighthouse Preservation” in 2005 in Gothenburg, Sweden;
* The IALA Conservation Manual was published in 2006 to provide guidance to members on many aspects of Historic Lighthouses Conservation;
* a Seminar on the “Heritage Issues of Introducing New Technologies in Aids to Navigation” in Santander, Spain in 2009; some key conclusions and recommendations of the seminar were:
* Change is inevitable. Ideally, changes made during the development of a historical AtoN site should be reversible and in all cases properly documented.
  + The preservation and documentation of AtoN should focus on whole sites and include historical developments and achievements in technical equipment and related human experiences. Documentation should include the experiences and recollections of those involved in operating AtoN, as well as those involved in their conservation.
  + Radionavigation aids were an important part of AtoN technology in the 20th century and there is a need to document and disseminate this aspect of AtoN heritage.
* a Seminar on the “Preservation of Lighthouse Heritage” in Athens, Greece in 2013 gathering high level professionals from different areas related to the Cultural Heritage.

One of the eighteen recommendations from the 17th IALA Conference held in Capetown, South Africa in March 2010, stating that “IALA should continue to provide guidance on the preservation and maintenance of historic equipment and artefacts” confirms that the work of IALA on guidelines and the exchange of information relating to the Conservation of Historic Lighthouses is still considered important by its members.

Refer to IALA publications:

*IALA Lighthouse Conservation Manual*

*IALA Guideline No. 1063 on Agreements for Complementary use of Lighthouse Property*

*IALA Guideline No. 1074 on Branding and Marketing of Historic Lighthouses*

*IALA Guideline No. 1075 on a Business Plan for Complementary Use of a Historic Lighthouse*

*IALA Guideline No. 1076 on Building Conditioning of Lighthouses*

*IALA Guideline No. 1080 on the Selection and Display of Heritage Artefacts*

*Report from the IALA Seminar on Heritage Issues of Introducing New Technologies in Aids to Navigation Santander, Spain in June 2009*

*Report from the IALA Seminar on the Preservation of Lighthouse Heritage, Athens, Greece in June 2013*