

IALA COUNCIL 68th session



10-14 December 2018
IALA Headquarters

AGENDA ITEM 6 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on a number of matters in relation to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

The membership of IALA continues to grow and the participation in the Committee work is overwhelming with up to 140 participants in some sessions.

After the successful second preparatory Diplomatic Conference hosted by the National member of the Kingdom of Morocco in February 2018 on the change of status to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) there has been extensive communication with the Ministry of Transport and the Directorate General of Coastal Safety in Turkey for the preparation of the third preparatory Diplomatic Conference in Istanbul 12th to 14th March 2019. Projects have been started to prepare the Secretariat for IGO status and a working group on the Headquarters agreement with the French Republic has been set-up.

A memorable 19th IALA Conference was held in the port city of Incheon, Republic of Korea from 27th May to 2nd June with a record number participants. The customary Industrial members' exhibition likewise attracted a record number of exhibitors.

The 13th General Assembly that was held at the same location on 29th May elected the new Council and agreed on the Strategic vision and resolutions on amendments to the Constitution, the seven Standards and the establishment of a World Marine AtoN Day.

In October, the meeting series kicked off for the Technical Committees, in accordance with the Committee structure decided by the Council last December (C65) for the work period 2018-2022 and the work programme approved by the Council in June (C67), and many papers were finalized for consideration by the Council.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA has grown to **295** which is **16** more members than at the same time last year. The movements of membership in the different categories are as follow:

Applications

- **One** application was received for National membership and formally accepted;
- **Eighteen** applications were received for Industrial membership. **Fifteen** were formally accepted, and **three** are to be confirmed
- **Seven** applications were received for Associate membership. **Three** were formally accepted, **one** was approved but as Industrial Member, **one** is awaiting approval from China and **two** are to be confirmed by Council.



Resignations and Terminations

- **Five** resignations were received from Industrial members (transfer, change in business)
- **One** resignation was received from an Associate member (transfer of authority to national member); and
- **Two** Associate membership were terminated for non-payment of contributions.

3. THE STRATEGIC VISION

An up-dated version of the Strategic Vision for IALA was approved by the General Assembly in May 2018 and the Committees commenced work in accordance with the Vision in October this year. The Councillors will recall that the Strategic Vision has two Goals for 2026, a Strategy to reach these, and Priorities for work in the 2018-2026 period.

The second management-level document which describes IALA's strategy for its technical work is the "Position on the Development of Marine AtoN Services". This document sets out IALA's position or view on the various aspects of the development of marine aids to navigation in the near future.

It is also the vehicle for carrying expressions of priority for work items, and also stating where IALA will, or will not venture in its AtoN activity. It contains the "Trends and Drivers" relating to IALA's technical work.

This position document is a "living document". It has been reviewed and maintained by PAP at least once per annum and commented on and agreed by the Council. During this meeting - C68 - I would like to invite the members of the Council to further develop the document if needed. This will be the subject of the discussions under Agenda item 8.1.

4. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

At the kind invitation of the Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, a second preparatory diplomatic conference took place in Marrakesh from 7th to 8th February 2018 to further progress the process needed to achieve IALA's planned change of status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization.

Chaired by His Excellency, Mr Serge Ségura, French Ambassador for the Oceans, with the support of Mr Lahcen Ait Brahim, Director of Ports and Maritime Public Domain of Morocco, the conference considered the draft IALA Convention text as revised following comments from National members and Governments and work by the IALA Legal Advisory Panel as a follow-up to the Paris conference in 2017 and the road map.

The attendance was similar to the Paris conference with 147 delegates representing 50 countries from around the world and three international organizations. Six of the countries represented were not yet IALA National members.

The conference concentrated on the first 11 articles of the draft Convention text. The delegates agreed on a number of articles: Preamble, Aim and Objectives, Functions, General Assembly, Council, Secretariat and Finance. It was clear that further work would be needed on some aspects of the Convention text, mainly the transitional arrangements, Associate membership for Member States' territories, the role of Committees and official and working languages.

It was agreed that further work on the draft General Regulations would be done when the text of the draft Convention had been agreed. The General Regulations would not be the subject of a drafting session at the Diplomatic Conference but would be approved at the first General Assembly of the Organization.

The conference agreed that text revised by an extraordinary meeting of the Legal Panel would be considered at the next Preparatory Diplomatic Conference which will be held in Istanbul 12th -14th March 2019 hosted by our National member, the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, and the Ministry of Transport of Turkey.



5. THE 19TH CONFERENCE AND THE 13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The highly successful 19th IALA Conference was held in the port city of Incheon, Republic of Korea from 27th May to 2nd June 2018.

More than 500 delegates – a record number for the four-yearly Conference – came from 65 countries. The customary Industrial members' exhibition likewise attracted a record number of exhibitors. The Memorandum of Understanding that IALA and Korea signed in Incheon is an important reaffirmation of the latter's long-standing cooperation in the Association's technical work concerning the harmonized provision of marine aids to navigation worldwide.

The first-ever World Lighthouse Heritage Exhibition that was successfully staged alongside the Conference will help to raise global awareness of the need for the conservation and sustainable management of historical lighthouses. The Incheon Declaration on Lighthouses as Cultural Heritage was a creative and important legacy of the Conference. It will encourage active maritime heritage programmes in different countries around the world for the benefit and inspiration of generations to come. It supports the work of the Heritage Forum of IALA's Engineering and Sustainability Committee.

The large attendance of the 13th General Assembly in Incheon enabled it to conclude its business on a solid platform. It elected the new Council with a wide geographical representation for the period 2018-2022.

The adoption by the 13th General Assembly of Resolution A13-03 endorsing its approval of a first set of seven IALA Standards marks a great step forward for IALA's Strategic Goal of harmonising marine aids to navigation worldwide by 2026. As a referencing framework for IALA Recommendations, the Standards cover technologies and services. They are not binding in the legal sense, but IALA will encourage coastal States to implement them.

Another important General Assembly Resolution was A13-04 establishing a World Marine Aids to Navigation Day to be celebrated on the 1st July each year – the date of the creation of IALA.

The Council at its 67th meeting elected the new IALA President and Vice President, Ms Young-shin KIM and Rear Admiral Marcos Lourenco de ALMEIDA. Ms KIM has already served IALA as an excellent Councillor in her capacity as Director of the Aids to Navigation Division in the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea.

The Industrial Members Committee also held its General Assembly in Incheon and successfully elected its members for the next four years.

6. SECRETARIAT REVIEW

At its 59th session in December 2014, the IALA Council was presented with the review of the IALA Secretariat, a study commissioned by the Secretary-General at the request of the Council at its 56th session. Councillors indicated their appreciation of the Review and made a number of comments. These included the need to strengthen the technical capability especially by the employment of permanent technical staff and the desire to have a full time Deputy Secretary-General and "directors" positions.

A step towards this was taken with the appointment of Omar Frits Eriksson as permanent Dean for the World Wide Academy, and now the next step is imminent.

The Deputy Secretary-General, Mike Card, the Vice-Dean, Stephen Bennett, and the two Committee Secretaries, Wim van der Heijden and Seamus Doyle, are all part-time consultants with limited term contracts. These consultant contracts with Mike, Stephen, Wim and Seamus will terminate at the end of the year.

To replace Mike Card, Omar Frits Eriksson will be the new Deputy Secretary-General/Dean of the World-Wide Academy from 1st January 2019.



IALA has engaged two full time staff members, Kevin Gregory and Tom Southall, who are well known to many Committee members. Kevin will work primarily in the World Wide Academy and Tom will support the technical department as a full-time Committee secretary. The assignments will be flexible, and they will work together supporting the Committees during Committee seasons, and will work for the Academy outside of those periods. Kevin and Tom have started with IALA in October/November this year.

I wish to acknowledge the great contribution to IALA made by our departing consultants.

Mike Card led the development of a clear written forward strategy for IALA in the form of our excellent Strategic Vision and its supporting technical documents, including the work programme for the coming four years. Together with the members of the Policy Advisory Panel, which he chaired, he also led the development of the concept of IALA Standards, culminating in seven new Standards being approved at the General Assembly.

Stephen almost single-handedly developed the course materials and lectures for the Academy and planned and delivered many of its courses. He was instrumental in launching the Academy on its path to success and in assisting and advising our members and non-members in the developing world. The World-Wide Academy would not have been the success it is without his enormous contribution.

Wim and Seamus have managed the vast volumes of documents and correspondence that is required for our technical Committees to achieve their purpose of developing the guidance documents that are used globally. They brought to this work, their deep knowledge of both marine aids to navigation and of IALA procedures, ensuring that the Committee work ran smoothly.

With the latest reorganization and employment of Mr. Minsu Jeon from the Republic of Korea as Technical Operation Manager in 2017 and Ms Isabelle Bracq as Accounting and Administrative assistant in November 2018 the recommendations from the review have now been implemented.

7. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug. Following a successful execution of its 2018 Action plan, the Academy is now finalizing its ambitious 2019 Action Plan which includes a number of Level 1 Aids to Navigation Manager courses around the world as well as numerous needs assessment missions and follow up review missions to developing countries in need of assistance. Following the retirement of the Vice Dean Stephen Bennett, who was employed as a part-time consultant, Kevin Gregory has now joined the Academy as a full time staff member.

The integration of the Academy and the rest of the secretariat is further strengthened through close cooperation between Gregory and Tom Southall, the new committee secretary.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from a number of nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA technical committees.

The three-year rolling agreement with IFAN, the primary sponsor of the Academy, is working well, ensuring a certain level of continuity for the Academy. In 2018 Malaysia joined as a major sponsor, and Singapore begins its sponsorship in 2019. In both cases there is a five year sponsorship commitment which we are very grateful for.

The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and IALA members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.

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

8. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the report.