Dear IALA National Member,

**Invitation to participate in IALA Legal Advisory Panel meeting**

**14th to 16th October 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

At the May 2013 meeting of the IALA Council in Busan, South Korea, the Council approved the taking of steps to change the status of IALA from that of a non-government organization to that of an international organization. The instrument that will permit IALA to change its status is a multilateral treaty, in the form of an International Agreement.

At the Council’s request a draft International Agreement has been produced by the IALA Legal Advisory Panel. Council decided that the draft instrument should be made available to all National Members for comment and further development.

As there will be a large gathering of IALA members in A Coruna, Spain in May 2014 for the next IALA General Assembly, this event and location has been consider suitable for the purposes of agreeing the final text for the International Agreement.

To facilitate this process an extraordinary meeting of the **Legal Advisory Panel (LAP) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 14-16 October 2013** and your administration is invited to attend.

All documents for this meeting (including the latest version of the draft International Agreement and General Regulations that support it) can be accessed from the ‘IALA Docs Committee meetings - LAPE’ area of the IALA website at <http://www.iala-aism.org>

Should you not have a personal login for the Committee area the generic login Email: [status@iala-aism.org](mailto:status@iala-aism.org) and Password: lap78 can be used for a limited time.

You are invited to review these important draft documents and to provide feedback using the template Comment Form attached at Annex C to Paper LAPE1/8. You are encouraged to share these draft documents with relevant agencies in your government (including Foreign Ministry) so that their input can also be considered. You are welcome to provide comments even if you cannot send a delegate to the meeting.

All comments should be submitted to [status@iala-aism.org](mailto:status@iala-aism.org) **no later than Friday 27 September 2013.**

The LAP meeting will then consider matters noted on the Comment forms related to the draft International Agreement at its meeting inCopenhagen, a Draft Agenda for which is provided in IALA Docs at LAPE1/4.The working language for the meeting will be English (please note that no translation facilities will be available).

All IALA National Members are encouraged to send up to two delegates to this LAP meeting,as our aim is to work collaboratively to finalise the text of the draft International Agreement for further review by Council in December 2013.

I am pleased to advise that Dr. Rosalie Balkin, Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division of the International Maritime Organization will participate as an advisor**.**

In order to inform us of your delegates for the LAP meeting please complete the Registration form available on IALA Docs, which should also be submitted to [status@iala-aism.org](mailto:status@iala-aism.org) **no later than Friday 27 September 2013.**

Please note that participants should arrange their own accommodation within the Copenhagen central city area. Public transport within Copenhagen is very convenient and will provide easy access to the venue for the meeting:

**Danish Maritime Authority**

31, Carl Jacobsens Vej

DK-2500 Valby  
Copenhagen

Information to assist in locating the venue is provided on IALA Docs.

I hope that the meeting will gather many IALA National Members to discuss this important issue.

Francis Zachariae

Chair, IALA Legal Advisory Panel

30 August 2013