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| From: EEP Committee | Formerly EEP20/output/23 rev1 |
| To: Policy Advisory Panel | 19 April 2013 |

Liaison Note

Requirement for on-going Heritage links with IALA and cultural bodies

# Introduction

The working group on Heritage was formed as part of the EEP committee out of the Panel for the Preservation of Historic Lighthouses (PHL). This document intends to provide reasons for the continuation of a Heritage working group within an engineering based Committee as part of the IALA Strategic planning for the next 12 years as well as possible work items for inclusion within a future work programme.

# Discussion

Working Group 2 recommend that the best option for considering the needs of IALA members in relation to Heritage and Conservation is through the committee structure, particularly where there is a direct, readily available link with Civil Engineering and Building expertise as well technological expertise in relation to technology changes which could impact on the heritage value of IALA member’s property and estate. Heritage matters were incorporated into the EEP Committee in 2002 to ensure that the programme of works and progress of the Working group was effectively produced and documented and it is felt that this should continue.

It has long been the view of this working group that the IALA website could be an excellent means of disseminating existing information and future documents. It is eagerly awaiting access to the proposed new IALA website and Heritage webpage and to provide assistance in maintaining and updating the Heritage web page.

This Working Group provides an excellent platform for discussions between IALA members and Heritage bodies e.g. lighthouse museums, national and international cultural authorities who are invited by IALA members to attend the meetings. In addition to this it is felt that one of the most successful work items of this group is the hosting of the Heritage Seminars which not only provide an excellent opportunity for extending the exchange of information and experiences between all groups but is a means of obtaining guidance from the Engineering and Cultural experts’ outwith the IALA membership.

There is increasing pressure on members from Heritage bodies as a result of changes in legislation in many countries and this has resulted in an increase in the number of buildings listed as monuments which has an impact on members needs for guidance in relation to their historic lighthouse estate.

The working group members feel that attendance to the IALA working group gave credibility to their discussions and arguments related to Lighthouse Heritage and Conservation through exchange of information and discussion of similar problems as well as providing supporting evidence for decisions made by members.

It is clear that increasing public interest in lighthouses has led to more members receiving complaints and bad publicity on the condition and maintenance of their lighthouses and resulting in a need for greater efforts to promote and improve their public image. In many instances the promotion of historic lighthouse events such as centenary’s or their link to other cultural events provides members with an excellent opportunity for good publicity and in order to maximise this, the buildings need to be maintained to a good standard. It is still the case that historic lighthouses form a major part IALA member’s property and estate.

# Proposed work items for 2014 – 2018 Work Programme

* reviewing and updating of existing guidelines and the IALA Lighthouse Conservation Manual;
* further research and guidance on the adaption and use of existing equipment and buildings for installation of modern technology;
* many countries now require record keeping documenting the changes to historic buildings and the working group believe that this should be encouraged as standard practice in all historic lighthouses. Comparison of different methods of record keeping and documenting changes in buildings and equipment as installed, removed or adapted could provide members with guidance on best practice;
* heritage and building related terms in the IALA Dictionary to be researched, reviewed and added to;
* it is agreed that the use of presentations during the working group improves the transfer of information but it has been suggested that this should become a more defined part of the work programme with the use of specific presentations arranged for future meetings to provide information to feed into work items or to give examples of projects which can be used as case studies;
* in addition to previous item it was felt that some of the presentations from the seminars should be brought into the meeting forum for further discussion and the useful information incorporated into work items where appropriate. It is also hoped that these can be made more widely available through the website;
* it was suggested that IALA could consider encouraging the possible World Heritage status for an international network of historic lighthouses to improve funding opportunities including encouraging contact between members and local groups involved in lighthouse projects;
* the working group should support a study of the history of daymarks and to assist in the production of a publication on the subject to allow this history to be recorded and retained;
* to consider the challenges of maintaining lanterns and lightrooms including for example techniques on repair issues, sealing leaks and preventing dissimilar metal reactions;
* to provide guidance on the design and provision of interpretation and information sign and in particular to provide examples of successful and not so successful designs, format and layout;
* to continue to support IALA Lighthouse Heritage Seminars as one of the most successful areas of the work carried out by the working group and if practicable increase the frequency of such events from every 4 years to every 2 years to increase the profile of the events and assist in providing input to other working group work items.

# Action requested

The Panel is requested to:

1. Consider the information contained within this liaison note in the discussions on the future IALA strategy
2. To retain a Heritage Working group as part of an engineering based Committee.