**26th Session of the IALA Policy Advisory Panel**

**IALA WWA Activity**

**1 –Regional Seminars on safety of navigation**

A four-day Regional Awareness Seminar on Safety of Navigation including Risk Management Principles was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 4th to 8th June 2013. It was organised jointly by IMO/IHO/IALA and hosted by the Marine Department of Thailand and was attended by 54 participants from 15 countries and one territory in South and East Asia.

A similar event was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 23rd to 25th September 2013, during three days, with less time dedicated to risk management. It was also organised jointly by IMO/IHO/IALA and hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy. It was attended by 33 participants from 11 French speaking African Countries and one regional organisation.

Those two seminars were not designed to confer specific competencies on its participants. It was rather an awareness exercise or briefing tailored for the authorities in charge of maritime safety, aids to navigation service providers and other maritime specialists, in order for them to get an overview of methods to improve safety of navigation and the efficiency of maritime traffic in the region. Its content was mainly based on “IALA model course E-141/2 on Senior Management Training”, to which was added one presentation on hydrography and one on ships routeing and reporting. This focussed on the obligations placed on coastal States since the implementation of the revised SOLAS chapter V in 2002 and of more recent tools developed to improve safety of navigation and traffic monitoring.

**2 – Regional VTS Forum**

A Regional Forum on Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) was held from 1 to 4 October 2013 in Singapore. The Forum was organised by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in collaboration with the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities World-Wide Academy (IALA WWA) and the Government of Singapore under the Singapore-IMO Third Country Training Programme.

A first activity under the IMO’s ITCP on the subject, the Forum provided a platform for officers from maritime administrations from Asia to interact and discuss issues related to safety of navigation in general and VTS in particular, with a view to identify capacity building needs in VTS for the region to enhance navigational safety. Further to the introduction of the subject matter by IMO and the technical matters presented by IALA, overseas and local speakers shared their views on a wide range of subjects such as training, legislation, implementation and operation of VTS.

The Forum was attended by 31 participants from 16 countries and territories. As part of the Forum programme, the participants visited to Singapore’s Port Operations Control Centres (POCC) where they had had the opportunity to see a well-established VTS equipped with recently renovated state-of-the-art systems based on experience of Maritime and Port Authority (MPA)., Singapore

**3 – Outcomes**

Feedback from the participants to the three events indicated that the meetings had met their aims and were generally very well received, and the participants adopted a number of recommendations at their conclusion.