



IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL

REPORT OF THE 55TH SESSION OF THE IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL (PAP)

13 November 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 55th session of PAP was held online on 13th November 2024.

Key outcomes included:

- Feedback from the committee season
- The review of the work programme and tools
- Consideration of MCP matters
- Committee coordination regarding MASS

The PAP was also updated on:

- The proposed Workshop on International Mobile Telecommunication (IMT) technologies for AtoN



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1. Welcome by the Secretary-General	4
1.2. Approval of agenda.....	4
1.3. Apologies	4
2. FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEE SEASON.....	4
3. WORK PROGRAMME AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS.....	4
4. MASS COORDINATION	5
5. LIAISON NOTES	5
6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	6
6.1. Workshop on IMT for Marine AtoNs	6
7. REPORT OF THE MEETING.....	6
8. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING	6
9. CLOSING OF MEETING	6
10. LIST OF ANNEXES TO THE REPORT	6

Report of the 55th Session of the IALA

Policy Advisory Panel

GENERAL

PAP55 was held virtually 13 November 2024, with Deputy Secretary-General Omar Frits Eriksson as Chair and Thomas Southall as Secretary.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. WELCOME BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General Francis Zachariae welcomed attendees and outlined key updates. He highlighted the upcoming Council Meeting, scheduled in three weeks, where preparations for the General Assembly in February will be a central focus. For the Committees and other subsidiary bodies, he recommended maintaining the current structure of the four committees, with only minor, editorial adjustments suggested by council members to the PAP-developed draft terms of reference. This approach, he noted, would provide stability for the next three-year work period.

The new Organization now has 35 member states, with Uruguay, Guatemala, and Argentina expected to join soon, bringing the anticipated count close to 40 by the General Assembly. He expressed optimism that the transition of members from the former structure to the new organization is progressing smoothly, ensuring continuity in membership.

He concluded by expressing gratitude for the committees' hard work during the second half of the year season and extended a warm welcome to Vincent Denamur, the newly appointed Dean of the Academy, acknowledging his contributions so far.

1.2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda (input paper PAP55-1.2.1) was approved. The approved agenda is provided in ANNEX A.

1.3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Malcolm Nicholson, IMG Representative and Dirk Eckhoff, VTS Vice-chair.

2. FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEE SEASON

The feedback from members on the recent committee season was largely positive, with most noting high engagement, strong participation and significant progress. Members reported a productive season with solid output, positioning the committees well within the overall program timeline.

Specific accomplishments highlighted included the successful AtoN Engineering Workshop, which attracted around 120 participants and facilitated technical discussions. Additionally, DTEC reported completing the Maritime Communication Manual and resolving a longstanding patent issue with China, with patent holders agreeing to make certain technologies freely available.

VTS reported particularly high attendance, with over 130 participants with substantial input submissions. LAP held a brief meeting in late October in hybrid format which went well.

Technical Officer Alisa Nechyporuk, who has recently joined the Secretariat, suggested revisiting the task register, proposing adjustments to task approval levels to improve the efficiency of committee operations.

3. WORK PROGRAMME AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS

The new Work Program Management Tool, introduced to support committee operations, has received encouraging initial feedback. Although the PAP noted some technical challenges and usability issues the

potential for greater efficiency and visibility of operations is great. Minsu Jeon, Technical Director, provided a recent update stating that he had brought in a professional service provider to enhance functionality, aiming for a fully operational tool by the next committee session.

Chairs are encouraged to review and provide feedback on the latest work program draft before the December council meeting. This will ensure alignment and allow all committees to focus on content rather than technical disruptions.

Discussions also highlighted varying requirements across committees, particularly around task approval procedures. For some, like DTEC, immediate updates were preferred to avoid delays, while other committees favoured additional approval steps. A proposal was made to review these differences in the next face-to-face meeting to potentially harmonize procedures while maintaining flexibility for individual committee needs.

Action item;

That Committee chairs review the latest version of the work program and provide feedback to the Secretariat for submission to the Council in December 2024.

4. MASS COORDINATION

The discussion on MASS task coordination underscored the need for clear inter-committee communication and collaboration to avoid overlap and ensure consistency. While the MASS Task Force has been overseeing efforts, it became evident that it is vital to maintain clarity on the specific initiatives that each committee undertakes.

The PAP reviewed ongoing MASS-related committee tasks. VTS outlined the committee's recent work, including a draft recommendation shared with DTEC and ARM and a Guideline that has been submitted to Council for approval. This draft Guideline provides guidance on interactions between VTS and mixed fleets of conventional, automated and autonomous vessels.

It was noted that the DTEC led overarching draft MASS guideline was quite substantial document and contained elements that was not aligned to IALAs position regarding the introduction of 'new' AtoN for MASS vessels. ARM held that creating separate new AToN for MASS would be problematic and impractical.

The chairs agreed to continue refining MASS related guidance at the committee level, with an emphasis on cooperation and cross-committee collaboration.

The PAP acknowledged the completion of the MASS Task Force's terms of reference and ongoing discussions about the possible continuation of its work. It was also reiterated that the PAP holds ultimate responsibility for inter-committee coordination.

The ENG Committee expressed gratitude for submitted documents on MASS to its Committee but highlighted challenges with reviewing multiple versions of draft guidelines due to timing issues. This concern will be revisited during the PAP meeting in February 2025. Thought was given to the development of inter-committee tasks such as forming dedicated drafting groups for document creation, which, for instance, could liaise with committees and disband upon approval of its work.

To coordinate the MASS tasks, the PAP noted a scheduled DTEC intersessional meeting on 13 January 2025 to finalize the overarching guideline.

Action item;

That the Secretariat add inter-committee communication, coordination and drafting on tasks to the agenda of PAP56.

5. LIAISON NOTES

The PAP noted the liaison notes that were sent from the 2nd half of 2024 committees to the 1st half of 2025.

The PAP reviewed ARM19-11.3.6 liaison note from ARM recommending IALA establish a running reference implementation of the Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP), as suggested during the IALA/IHO workshop

on S-100/S-200 in September 2024. The proposed MCP instance, offered by KRISO and GRAD at no cost to IALA, would include a service registry, identity registry, and maritime messaging service. The IALA Secretariat would support the implementation and assess procedural requirements for operational instances.

The note further stated that to continue the concurrent development of product specifications and technical services by IALA members and industry partners, there is a great need for interoperability testing. This can only be accomplished with an IALA-operated instance of the MCP to recognize IALA's level of responsibility in this area. This will ensure the smooth continuation of development efforts towards the realization of e-Navigation and digitalization.

Comments were made that the liaison note had not been circulated as an input paper prior to the meeting, which meant that PAP participants had not been able to prepare accordingly. Discussion also highlighted that this was a complicated issue and that the DTEC Committee should be a lead stakeholder involved in the consideration of these issues. Members were unsure that the December Council could consider the matter as IMO MSC 109 will also consider related matters and that coordination would be required between IALA and other relevant IGOs. The Secretariat clarified that the MCP was only for the members of IALA with the Chair expressing that, as the only concept that fulfils this particular purpose, he felt the time was now right for IALA to embrace the MCP at the core of digitalisation. It was agreed that this would be considered further at PAP56.

Action item;

That the Secretariat add consideration of the MCP to the agenda of PAP56.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. WORKSHOP ON IMT FOR MARINE ATOONS

The DTEC Chair reported on a proposal for a workshop on International Mobile Telecommunication (IMT) technologies in the Marine AtoN domain, planned for September 2025. The workshop aims to:

- Inform stakeholders about advancements in IMT technologies, including IMT-Advanced (4G/LTE), IMT-2020 (5G), and emerging IMT-2030 (6G).
- Identify features of IMT technologies that can enhance Marine AtoN.
- Address technical, regulatory, and operational challenges of IMT implementation in Marine AtoN.
- Explore IALA's ongoing role in supporting IMT integration in the sector.

The event will provide a platform to shape IALA's position and documentation on IMT use in the Marine AtoN field.

7. REPORT OF THE MEETING

The final report was approved by correspondence.

8. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

PAP56 will be held between the 4 – 6 February 2025 at IALA HQ.

9. CLOSING OF MEETING

The Chair thanked all members for their cooperation and friendly discussions and once again congratulated the committee chairs and vice-chairs for the successful committee season.

10. LIST OF ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

- 1 Agenda



A copy of the agenda is at ANNEX A.

2 Participants

A list of participants is at ANNEX B.

3 Input papers

A list of input papers is at ANNEX C.

4 Output papers

A list of output papers is at ANNEX D.

ANNEX A AGENDA



55th Session of the IALA Policy Advisory Panel (PAP55)

The 55th session of the Policy Advisory Panel will be held on 13 November 2024, as a virtual meeting.

The objectives of the panel are to:

- Formulate advice for the IALA Council and Secretariat;
- Coordinate the work of the IALA committees to achieve the goals of the Strategic Vision; and
- Monitor and develop work programmes for the committees.

Provisional Agenda

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 Welcome by Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General
 - 1.2 Approval of agenda
 - 1.3 Apologies
- 2 Feedback from the committee season
- 3 Work programme and management tools
- 4 MASS coordination
- 5 Liaison notes
- 6 Any other business
 - 6.1 Workshop on IMT for Marine AtoNs
- 7 Report of the meeting
- 8 Date and venue of next meeting
- 9 Closing of meeting



ANNEX B LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ARM Committee	Chair	R. David Lewald robert.d.lewald@uscg.mil
	Vice-chair	Natasha McMahon natasha.mcmahon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
DTEC Committee	Chair	NOGUCHI Hideki hideki.noguchi@gmail.com
	Vice-chair	Jorge Arroyo Jorge.Arroyo@uscg.mil
ENG Committee	Chair	Alwyn Williams alwyn.williams@gla-rad.org
	Vice-chair	Michel Cousquer Michel.Cousquer@cerema.fr
VTS Committee	Chair	Monica Sundklev monica.sundklev@transportstyrelsen.se
LAP	Chair	Christina Schneider Christina.Schneider@wsv.bund.de
	Vice-chair	Thomas Arculus thomas.arculus@trinityhouse.co.uk
Secretary-General		Francis Zachariae fza@iala.int
Deputy Secretary-General		Omar Frits Eriksson ofe@iala.int
Dean of the Academy		Vincent Denamur vde@iala.int
Technical Director		Minsu Jeon mje@iala.int
Technical Officers		Thomas Southall tso@iala.int
		Alisa Nechyporuk ane@iala.int

ANNEX C LIST OF INPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	Input Paper Title	Source
PAP55-	1.2.1	Provisional Agenda	Secretariat
PAP55-	5.1	Liaison note from ENG to PAP on documents for intercommittee work	ENG



ANNEX D LIST OF OUTPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	OUTPUT PAPERS
PAP55-	7.1	Report of PAP55

