

Agenda item 5 – REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**Executive Summary**

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

5.1 IMO engagement

Since Council 56 in Busan, Republic of Korea, the IMO Secretary-General, Mr Koji Sekimizu has conducted two extraordinary symposia. The first event was the *IMO Symposium on the Future of Ship Safety*, 10-11 June 2013, and the second was the *World Maritime Day Symposium on a Sustainable Maritime Transportation System*, 26th September 2013.

Both of these events were well attended with the normal audience of the IMO expanded to include a broader range of maritime interests not only in attendance at the actual event, but also via the live web telecasting of each symposium. IALA was uniquely requested by the Secretary-General of the IMO to present at both of these symposia and discuss the topic of the Accident Zero Campaign and Efficient Navigation.

These events provided the opportunity for IALA to present on the current activities of the organisation, recent achievements and future work items to be considered.

5.2 Sister Organisation support for IALA change of status project

The Chairman of the Legal Advisory Panel has provided a separate update on this project, but it is also relevant in this report to Council to note the support received for this project from both the IMO and IHO.

At the 110th session of the IMO Council, the Secretary-General of the IMO made a specific intervention during the discussions on relations with non-governmental organisations, and informed the IMO Council that, "*[IALA] is in the process of converting to an Intergovernmental Organization. From IMO's perspective, I believe that such a move can only serve to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between our two organisations...*"

Additionally the President of the International Hydrographic Organization, Mr Robert Ward has recently provided a reference for the project with the following statement:

"As the President of the secretariat of the IHO I am very familiar with the valuable role played by IALA in meeting our common goals of supporting safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. Our organizations share similar aspirations, and through our technical cooperation and capacity building endeavours, and the development of standards and other publications, we work to ensure consistent and complimentary outcomes for governments and for the maritime industry. Achieving our mutual aims will only be enhanced by IALA becoming an inter-governmental organisation."

The IMO has additionally supported the project with the active participation of Dr Rosalie Balkin, Director External and Legal Affairs Division of the IMO, at the recent extraordinary Legal Advisory Panel (LAP) meeting held in Copenhagen, 14-16 October 2013.

5.3 Human Resource management

There have been a number of recent changes to the staffing profile of the organisation, with Mrs Christine Phillip now being employed on a fulltime basis responsible for Finance and Membership matters.

Dr Mike Hadley, who was previously employed on a continuous contract basis, has now left IALA and the committee secretary function has been shared among a number of part-time Committee Secretaries engaged on a contractual basis primarily during the periods of the committee meetings. Dr Hadley will be assisting with the 2014 Conference and Assembly in A Coruña, Spain.

Mr Paul Ridgway, who has been the Editor of the IALA Bulletin for over 24 years, has now left IALA with this role being absorbed into the duties of Mrs Marie-Hélène Grillet as Manager, Administration.

5.4 IALA National member support to the Secretariat

As in previous reporting periods, IALA has benefited enormously during the period from the tremendous support provided by our members and delegates, but it is worthwhile to note that in addition to this normal support, both the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) have seconded specialist officers to assist with legal and policy development work during the reporting period.

Action requested of the Council

The Council is requested to **Note** this Report.