

IALA COUNCIL 63rd session



13-16 December 2016
IALA Headquarters
France

13 – INTERNATIONAL

13.6 –Far East Radionavigation Service

13.6.1 – 25th Session of the FERNS Council, Busan, Korea

Note by the Secretariat

1. BACKGROUND

The FERNS Council was established as an IGO in 1992 aiming at the development of international cooperation in radionavigation. One of the obligations of member states is to assist in fulfilling the tasks of IALA concerning the safety of navigation of shipping. Member states are presently China, Korea, and Russia



2. 25TH SESSION OF THE FERNS COUNCIL

The Twenty-Fifth Session of the Council (FERNS 25) was held in Haeundae Grand Hotel in Busan, Republic of Korea, in the period 25-28 October 2016, convened by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF).

A one day meeting of the Technical Working Group was conducted on 24th October 2016.

Representatives of the following Members, Observers and Invited guests participated in the session:

Members:

- The People's Republic of China
- The Republic of Korea
- The Russian Federation

Observers:

- IALA (International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities)

Invited guests:

- Republic of Korea:
- Assistant Director from Maritime Industry & Technology Division, MOF
- Professor from Yonsei University
- Principal Research Engineer from Korea Research Institute of Ships & Ocean Engineering
- Senior Researcher from Korea Aerospace Research Institute

IALA was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Michael Card, and by Finance and Administration Manager, Mrs Christine Philip.



3. REPORT OF THE 25TH SESSION

A full report of the 25th Session of the FERNS Council is held by the Secretariat.

4. FUTURE DIRECTION FOR THE WORK OF FERNS

At recent meetings of the FERNS Council, an expansion of the scope of FERNS' role in radionavigation services had been discussed. At the 24th Session, the Technical Working Group (TWG) drafted changes to the FERNS Agreement to emphasise this. However diplomatic exchanges between the departments of foreign affairs of the three states determined that no change to the Agreement was necessary to broaden technical cooperation, and also that additional observers could be invited if the Council wished to expand its geographical reach.

In the TWG meeting at this 25th Session IALA made a presentation suggesting how FERNS should expand its cooperation, and inviting it to work more closely with IALA. This was received positively by the TWG and later in the week by the FERNS Council.

The result was the drafting of a resolution by the FERNS Council to expand its work into other radionavigation systems and to work for harmonisation of e-navigation. The main points of the resolution were that FERNS will:

1. Expand its activities to the provision of all radionavigation services including maritime safety information in Far Eastern Waters necessary for the safety of navigation of shipping,
2. As the Council decides is necessary, request the presence of representatives of IALA and other States which are not Parties to the Agreement in order to closely confer with them,
3. Carry out the above actions and keep in close consultation with IALA.

The result of this action will be the opening of a new opportunity for faster harmonisation of global radionavigation services such as eLoran and R-Mode, and for better harmonisation of digital services such as Application Specific Messages, NAVDAT, Maritime Safety Portfolios, and S-200.

The Secretariat will take action on this with the Chair of the FERNS TWG, Professor Dr S Gug.

5. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the report on the 25th session of the FERNS Council.