

IALA COUNCIL 70th session



10-13 December 2019
Nouméa
New Caledonia

6 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on several matters related to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

The membership of IALA continues to grow and the participation in the Committee work is very satisfying. The restructuring of the Committee workplan has been a success and the participation has stabilized at around 100 participants in each Committee.

After the successful third Preparatory Diplomatic Conference on the change of status to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), hosted by the National member of the Republic of Turkey in March 2019, there has been extensive communication with the Ministry of Transport and the Light Dues Board Peninsular Malaysia with respect to the preparations for the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur 25 – 28 February 2020. An outline plan and relevant draft documents are ready for discussion at this session of the Council. The Secretariat has finalized a draft of the General Regulations to be presented in Kuala Lumpur and a working group on the Headquarters agreement with the French Republic has been set-up.

In September and October, the autom meeting series kicked off for the Committees, in accordance with the Committee structure decided by the Council in December 2017 (C65) for the 2018-2022 work period and the work programme approved by the Council in June (C67), and many papers were finalized for consideration by the Council. The VTS seminar on the changes to Resolution 857(20) was successfully hosted in IALA in June and the 1st World Aids to Navigation Day was hosted by the Puertos del Estado in Palma de Mallorca. The Ministry of Oceans and Fishery of the republic of Korea hosted the e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific in Seoul 2-4 September and the R-Mode workshop attracted experts from around the world in IALA 9-13 September.

Following the successful VTS seminar and the excellent work of a correspondence group with excellent international participation the submission by IALA and many co-sponsors on a review of the IMO Guidelines for vessel traffic services (Resolution A.857(20)) have been send as an input paper to the IMO, NCSR Sub-Committee in October 2019.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA has grown to 303, which is 8 more members than at the same time last year. The movements in membership in the different categories are as follow:

Applications

- 3 applications were received for National membership and formally accepted,
- 22 applications were received for Industrial membership. 15 were formally accepted, 5 are to be confirmed, and 2 are subjected to Council approval,



- 6 applications were received for Associate membership. 5 were formally accepted, and 1 is to be confirmed by Council.

Resignations and Terminations

- 13 resignations were received from Industrial members (transfer, change in business, inability to pay their contributions),
- 6 Industrial memberships were terminated by Council for non-payment,
- 1 Associate membership was terminated for non-payment of contributions.

Members in arrears:

5 National Members were suspended for non-payment of their contributions (Algeria, Gabon, Rep of Congo, Tanzania and Benin). In order to help them to solve this debt, the previous years were waived and only the 2019's remained due. This gesture has led to the payment of their contribution by 2 of them (Gabon and Tanzania) in order to remain a member, 1 has resigned (Benin) due to restructuring and budgetary restriction.

As agreed during C69 (action items 11 & 12) some Industrial members in arrears were approached by the Secretariat and the respective Councillors and the following feedbacks were received from:

- Korea: 3 Industrial Members will settle their debt by beginning of next year and they want to keep their membership and 1 has resigned,
- Canada: 1 Industrial has resigned due to a change in business

I want to express my gratitude to the Councillors for their support in this matter.

In addition to that, the number of members in arrears has considerably come down due to a successful collection of debt by the Secretariat after re structuring of the Administrative staff, where Ms. Lorraine Mbong is now dedicated Membership officer.

More details will be given during the membership point on the agenda.

3. THE STRATEGIC VISION

An up-dated version of the Strategic Vision for IALA was approved by the General Assembly in May 2018 and the Committees commenced work in accordance with the Vision in October last year. The Councillors will recall that the Strategic Vision has two Goals for 2026, a Strategy to reach these, and Priorities for work in the 2018-2026 period.

The second management-level document which describes IALA's strategy for its technical work is the "Position on the Development of Marine AtoN Services". This document sets out IALA's position or view on the various aspects of the development of marine aids to navigation in the near future.

It is also the vehicle for carrying expressions of priority for work items, and also stating where IALA will, or will not venture in its AtoN activity.

This position document is a "living document". It has been reviewed and maintained by PAP at least once per annum and commented on and agreed by the Council. After advice from C68, the document was reviewed by PAP at its 37th session in February 2019 and sent to the Committees - especially the ENG Committee – for further review and comments. The Committees came back with numerous comments on various parts of the document after the spring and autumn sessions. The new draft version is input to C70 for further consideration together with the Strategic White Paper developed during C69 in Rotterdam.



4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

With the latest reorganization the IALA and WWA staff now consist of 12 full time employed members and three consultants (two in the WWA section and one for Communication). Ms. Marie-Hélène Grillet and Ms. Virginia Marshall will retire in 2020.

It has been decided that Ms. Grillet will be replaced by Ms. Audrey Guinault who has been part of the IALA team since 2015. The Secretariat is in the process of recruiting a new administrative staff with English/Spanish language skills. The French language is covered by the rest of the Administration staff.

With the growing number of members and participants and the growing involvement of IALA in international guidance on Safety of Navigation it is clear that more resources are needed in the technical department. It has therefore been decided to recruit one more technical officer as secretary for the Committees and advisor on technical matters. Mr. Tom Southall and this new person will then take care of two Committees each and the related seminars, workshops etc. This will also give the needed resources for improved necessary quality assurance of the guidance documents before they are submitted to Council and on the web site.

This small reorganization and the new recruitments can be covered by the present budget as described under agenda point nine.

The IALA Staff rules and Secretariat Procedures that have been developed over the last years have been updated with a Communications policy and a Patent policy. The updated Staff Procedures are an input paper for the information of the Council.

5. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

At the kind invitation of the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Turkey, a third preparatory diplomatic conference took place in Istanbul from 12 to 14 March 2019 to agree a draft text for the Convention that will establish the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation.

The Third Preparatory Conference agreed that the prepared text of a draft Convention on the establishment of the International Organization was sufficiently advanced for consideration at a Diplomatic Conference which is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur 25 to 28 February 2020.

It was also agreed that further work on the draft General Regulations would be done when the text of the draft Convention has been agreed. The General Regulations would not be the subject of a drafting session at the Diplomatic Conference but would be approved at the first General Assembly of the Organization. The draft General regulation and its Financial Regulations will be made available as an information paper at the Conference.

6. PREPARATION FOR THE 14TH SYMPOSIUM AND THE 20TH CONFERENCE

Preparation for the 14th Symposium 25 to 29 May 2020 in Rotterdam and the 20th Conference proposed to be held 28 May to 4 June 2022 at the Windsor Convention Centre in Rio de Janeiro is progressing well.

The Secretariat has received almost 100 abstracts for presentation at the Symposium and the Steering Group has selected the abstracts for presentation at plenary and the ones for poster presentations.

The attendance by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization is secured for Rotterdam and he will be invited to attend the Conference in Rio de Janeiro as soon as dates and venue are finally decided.



The first meeting of the Steering Group for the preparation of the Conference has been held and the Industrial Members Committee held a successful meeting in Rio de Janeiro 28 April to 2 May and inspected all the possible facilities to ensure a successful Exhibition and Industrial Members evening in Rio.

The Council members from the Netherlands and Brazil will give more details during C70.

7. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug. The Academy is now in the final stage of its 2019 Action Plan which encompassed several technical missions to developing countries, six Level 1 Aids to Navigation Manager courses delivered in both English and French and a masterclass delivered in China. It is most likely that in 2020 the Level 1 AtoN manager course will also be delivered in Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.

Kevin Gregory the Education and Training manager of the Academy has now fully embraced his role in the Academy and is on top of that assisting the Technical division quite a lot with the committees. Mrs. Gerardine Delanoye who is responsible for the Capacity Building side of the Academy has also risen to the occasion and making good progress with executing the Academy Capacity Building action plan.

The integration of the Academy and the rest of the Secretariat continues to be strengthened through close cooperation between Gregory and Tom Southall, the Committee Secretary. At its last meeting, the VTS committee tasked the Academy with looking closer at how VTS training has been implemented world-wide. Since Kevin, Tom and Gerardine all have a background in VTS training, the Academy is well qualified to take this on.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from several nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA Committees.

The three-year rolling agreement with IFAN, the primary sponsor of the Academy, continues to work well. As reported earlier, Malaysia joined as a major sponsor in 2018 followed by Singapore in 2019. In both cases there is a five-year sponsorship commitment for which we are very grateful. Korea has also decided to continue its important Sponsorship, and contributions from Australia, France, UK, JANA and others are also very much appreciated.

The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and IALA members are urged to keep an eye on all sponsoring opportunities in their country or region.

The Dean will brief in more detail under the relevant agenda item.

8. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the information provided in the report.