

IALA COUNCIL 72nd session



8-10 December 2020
Video Conference

12 – WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

12.1 – Progress report and future actions

Update from the World-Wide Academy

1. INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGY

Council members will recall that the IALA World-Wide Academy (the Academy) focusses on facilitating the effective implementation of the IALA standards, recommendations, guidelines and model courses by coastal States through education, training and capacity building thereby underpinning the second strategic goal of IALA.

The Academy aims to ensure that all coastal States can fulfil the obligations related to Marine Aids to Navigation placed upon them in Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention and that all coastal States can claim conformance with the relevant IALA standards.

The latest Academy Master Plan for the period 2020 – 2024 articulated three simple means by which the aims and goals of the Academy may be achieved:

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| ① | ENLIGHTEN | raise the awareness of high-level decision makers of their international obligations relating to safety of navigation; |
| ② | EDUCATE | provide a suite of relevant education and training opportunities for as many as possible; and |
| ③ | ENGAGE | pursue long-term capacity building activities with coastal States and provide advice on how to overcome challenges. |

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the traditional modus-operandi of the Academy in that all face-to-face and on-site activities have been forced to cease. However, the demand for the services of the Academy has consistently remained exceptionally strong and all opportunities to conduct online activities have been seized. Once overseas travel can resume, face-to-face and on-site activities will recommence on a case by case basis taking full account of the prevailing safety advice at the time.

The Board of the Academy has met on two occasions to review progress and consider the implementation of the Master Plan, the reports of the Board meetings are available as accompanying input papers.

2. ENLIGHTENING – MAINTAINING CONTACT DURING COVID-19

Despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy has remained active throughout 2020 in the promotion of the SOLAS requirements related to both AtoN and VTS and the benefits of implementing the IALA standards.

A large and diverse audience was reached through the conduct of a webinar with The Nautical Institute. Some 438 attendees joined the webinar from a wide range of organisations and maritime backgrounds. The range of questions received in response to the webinar was extremely positive and the webinar can be viewed through [The Nautical Institute YouTube channel](#).



A successful webinar with French speaking countries in Africa took place in October as a follow-up to the awareness seminar that was conducted in 2019 in Rabat, Morocco. The webinar was well attended and featured an excellent address by the Minister for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of the Republic of Congo, Mr Coussoud-Mavoungou. Similar follow up webinar for English speaking countries is also planned for late 2020/early 2021.

Contact has remained strong with sister organisations, particularly those part of the 'UN Delivering as One' partnership. Work has continued with the IMO and the Academy will be represented at the forthcoming Technical Cooperation Committee. Additionally, Council members will recall that a paper was submitted to the Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping Sub-Committee related to VTS Training for Deck Officers. This will be presented when the Sub-Committee is rescheduled during 2021 and will serve to promote the IALA standards to a wider audience of IMO Member States.

The Academy has continued to be represented at various Regional Hydrographic Commissions which have been conducted online.

3. EDUCATING – DEVELOPING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Significant developments have been made with respect to the education and training activities in terms of the modernisation of existing practices, the development of new courses and materials to support both distance learning and face-to-face training.

The Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager course is in the process of being updated to enhance the level of interactivity between students and instructors. A new suite of textbooks is nearing completion and a range of complementary learning activities has been devised to enable students to interact directly with IALA technical publications. The learning materials are being progressively transitioned from traditional PowerPoint style to a more interactive means of presentations that are capable of being used both in the distance learning and face-to-face training environments. The examination arrangements for the course have been overhauled to make them less reliant on testing the memory of a student and more focussed on knowledge, understanding and the use of the IALA technical publications.

Other courses within the Level 1 series have also benefited from development. The popular Level 1.3 course on the use of the Risk Management Tools is being configured for distance learning and the Level 1.2 Master of Marine Aids to Navigation Management is currently being delivered by distance learning for the first time. A new course, based on the principles of procurement, is under development and will be ready for delivery by the end of 2020.

Liaison with the global network of Accredited Training Organisations (ATOs) has been maintained and a series of seminars was held in November to update all organisations with the latest developments within the Academy and also to gain information on their plans for 2021. Regrettably, apart from a Level 1.1 course held in the United Kingdom in March and in France during the autumn, no residential training was possible during 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Academy provided support to the VTS Committee in the update of IALA Recommendation R0103 on the training and certification of VTS personnel and its associated Guideline and also supported the VTS and ARM committees in the finalisation of a new Recommendation on Marine Aids to Navigation Awareness for Mariners. Work is also underway with respect to updating and examining a potential merging of the two guidelines on the accreditation and approval process for VTS and AtoN training to provide a greater degree of harmonisation and quality management of training provision world-wide.

4. ENGAGING – LONG TERM CAPACITY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme of capacity building activities, which relies heavily on face-to-face contact and on-site activities has been severely disrupted. However, contact has been maintained with all coastal State partners where missions or other activities were scheduled with a view to the early resumption of activities when the COVID-19 situation permits safe travel or to undertake online activities as an alternative.



Online activities are in progress with several countries. In Somalia, the Academy is assisting the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport with the planning process for the installation of a new system of AtoN in Mogadishu Harbour and its approaches. This involves support in the use of the IALA Risk Management Tools as well as providing training in procurement processes.

An online “micro-Seminar” was conducted with Belize Port Authority, following up on recommendations provided by the Dean during his mission to Belize in 2017. Significant progress was noted however, more development is needed before they will be in a position to be able to claim full conformance to IALA standards.

An online awareness event has been planned with Indonesia in order to assist in their preparations for a forthcoming IMO Member State Audit. The focus on the awareness event will be the implementation of SOLAS requirements related to the provision of VTS.

Further ‘micro’ awareness and capacity building events are being planned for implementation to a range of audiences around the world as a means to maintain the momentum and progress within coastal States in need of Academy assistance.

5. FINANCE, SPONSORSHIP AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Academy continues to rely on the generous sponsorship of a range of organisations, including the organisations of some Council members. A substantial portion of the agreed sponsorship donations have been received for the year 2020 but some are still outstanding in part, at the time of writing.

The risk register for the Academy is subject to regular review and scrutiny by both the Board, LAP and the Council. There have been no appreciable changes to the risk register with the continued availability and diversification of sponsorship sources along with Academy staff safety and security being major matters.

The Academy seeks to diversify the sources of sponsorship to both increase the resource available for the execution of the Master Plan and to avoid over reliance on single sources of income.

The new risk management process for overseas travel is now established and will be the subject of review with respect to health matters related to COVID-19 once travel can safely recommence.

6. CONCLUSION

The World-Wide Academy has adapted to the Pandemic situation and is for the time being conducting all its activities online, pursuing its goals through its “*Enlighten, Educate and Engage*” strategy. While there has been significant activity in all three areas, the Academy has also seized the opportunity to develop and consolidate its distance learning resources and methods. As a result, the Academy is now able to deliver most of its training activities as distance learning.

The many ATOs around the world have been forced to cancel their planned Level 1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation Manager courses due to the Pandemic however, at a recent Seminar arranged by the Academy, it was clear that all active ATOs plan to deliver the course in 2021, most probably in the second half of the year.

In 2020 the primary sponsors have stood by the Academy and maintained their generous support, and we thank them all for that. The never-ending work on seeking further funding for the Academy continues and Council members are urged to identify any possible sponsorship opportunities.

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

1. Note the World-Wide Academy progress report.