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STRATEGY, PLANNING AND REFORM

The Coordination and Cooperation between e-Navigation Underway Conferences and International Organizations

Submitted by Denmark, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This submission provides information on the "e-Navigation Underway" series of conferences, namely e-Navigation Underway International, e-Navigation Underway North America and e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific. The conferences have been taking place annually to support technical developments, best practices, standardization and harmonized implementation of IMO's work on e-navigation. The submission also provides information on future initiatives for better coordination and cooperation between stakeholders.

Strategic Direction: 1.1

High-Level Action: 1.1.2

Output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 11

Related document: C 117/3

Background

1 The need for IMO to adopt e-navigation was first suggested in December 2005. A joint submission by Japan, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America stated the case for the Organization to take the lead in ensuring a coordinated, global approach to e-navigation developments, with a view to maximizing the potential of new technologies for efficient shipping and to achieve the goals of improved safety of navigation, maritime security and protection of the marine environment. In 2008, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) adopted a formal definition for e-navigation. Intensive work followed on the conduct of a gap analysis to develop the concept of e-navigation and an implementation strategy in a structured, coordinated and harmonized manner. In 2013, work on the Strategy Implementation Plan (SIP) for e-Navigation was completed and the SIP was approved by

MSC 94 in November 2014. A four-year work programme (2016-2019) on the implementation of e-navigation with a strong emphasis on user needs was subsequently approved by MSC 95 in June 2015.

e-Navigation Underway Conferences

2 Maritime stakeholders have engaged in various efforts to support IMO's work on e-navigation. The authors of this information paper wish to draw attention to the series of e-Navigation Underway Conferences led by IALA, in close cooperation with interested maritime administrations of IMO Member States and international organizations. These conferences are concerned with gathering stakeholder opinions and facilitating the exchange of views and experiences, promoting understanding between equipment manufacturers and users, cooperation in field tests and verification of emerging e-navigation concepts and technologies and discussions on future e-navigation policy. Each conference produces a set of conclusions for the guidance of stakeholders and to further progress e-navigation.

3 The first International e-Navigation Underway Conference was organized under the auspices of the Danish Maritime Authority and IALA in 2011 and attracted participation from around the world and a wide cross section of stakeholders. Since then, it has been held annually, in late January or early February, on board a ferry making the passage between Copenhagen and Oslo. The seventh International e-Navigation Underway Conference will be held from 31 January to 2 February 2017 and will again be supported by the International Hydrographic Organization, the Comité International Radio-Maritime, the International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO and the Nautical Institute.

4 The e-Navigation Underway North America Conference was established in 2014, also as an annual event, and it takes place in September or October. The next Conference in North America will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, from 16 to 18 October 2017.

5 The first e-Navigation Underway Asia Pacific Conference will take place in the Republic of Korea in June 2017 and is supported by the Asia Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA). It will focus on technologies to provide e-navigation services to non-SOLAS ships, the conduct of a test bed for global field testing of newly developed e-navigation technologies, and cooperation with IALA to develop training and education programmes for stakeholders.

Development and implementation of e-navigation

6 In adopting e-navigation, IMO has recognized that e-navigation can make a major contribution to achieving its goals of enhancing safety of life at sea, maritime security and the prevention of maritime accidents. By placing user needs at the centre of technological developments, e-navigation also supports the Organization's focus on the human element and the reduction of marine incidents and maritime casualties caused by human factors. E-navigation is also expected to assist in the development of the shipping and maritime industries through Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

7 To realize the multi-faceted benefits of e-navigation and achieve the goals of IMO, it is important to coordinate and harmonize technical developments, agree on policy aspects, and cooperate to bring about appropriate standardization for e-navigation. This requires the proactive participation of the IMO membership. The engagement of all IMO Member States is critical for the successful completion of the priority e-navigation solutions identified under the SIP within the four-year time frame (2016-2019), as approved by the Marine Safety Committee (MSC).

Coordination and cooperation

8 The e-Navigation Underway Conference series can greatly assist with progressing the coordination work for the further development of e-navigation and the facilitation of international cooperation with regard to technical developments for e-navigation. However, IMO, as the global standard setter for international shipping, has an important mandate to support its Member States and encourage their active cooperation in the development of e-navigation, as well as cooperation with the relevant international organizations. It is important to note that this is directly related to the integration of new technologies as stated in the Strategic Direction (SD) 2 currently under development for the 2018-2023 time frame. The realization of e-navigation depends, therefore, on the participation of all maritime stakeholders, including the IMO Member States as well as the relevant international organizations.

Conclusion

9 The e-Navigation Underway Conferences have proved to be an excellent platform for facilitating the harmonized global development of e-navigation technology and best practices, and for coordinating the work of the international organisations involved.

10 The continued support of IMO Member States, relevant international organizations and industry partners for the e-Navigation Underway conferences is both welcome and desirable for achieving the maximum benefit for the harmonized development of e-navigation. The authors of this paper intend to submit a paper to a future session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) or MSC with a proposal for improved coordination in this field.

Action requested of the Council

11 The Council is invited to note the information provided.
