



**IALA Workshop for participants at the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting
"The new IALA, an International Organization for Coastal States"
Monday, 8 May 2023, Port Vila 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

You are invited to learn more about the International Association for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA/AISM) on Monday 8 May 2.00 – 3.30 pm.

Secretary-General Francis Zachariae will give a presentation about the association structure and work and focus on the transformation from a non-governmental association to an Intergovernmental Organization based on a Convention.

In the margins of the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) has the honour to organize a workshop to inform High-Level Government Officials on the transformation of IALA from a non-governmental organization to an intergovernmental organization.

Following more than a decade of preparations, in February 2020, sixty-two (62) coastal States met at a diplomatic conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where fifty (50) States, (including Fiji and Papua New Guinea) agreed to the text of a new convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. The main purpose of this convention is to replace the current International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), which is a non-governmental association, with an intergovernmental organization (IGO).

IGO status will best support the aims and activities of IALA into the future. It will benefit the Member States and members, other International Organizations, like the Pacific Community, and their Member States, as well as the shipping industry by continuous improvement and enhanced harmonization of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and related services to the benefit of safety of navigation, efficiency of shipping traffic and protection of the environment. The Convention provides for a fit-for-purpose international legal framework that ensures transparency and good governance, strengthens the position of IALA to work in close collaboration with Governments and other IGOs, and fosters its technical and consultative work as the leading international expert body concerned with AtoN and related services.

IALA has assisted many Pacific countries with training and capacity-building, including the training of a cadre of competent personnel in the appropriate disciplines and raising awareness of the IALA publications through its World-Wide Academy. This important work will benefit from the IGO status as governments will be directly involved and the access to funding for capacity building will increase.

More information is contained in input paper for agenda point 14, which can be found on the dedicated web site.