

**14th Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG/IMPA Capacity Building
Coordination Meeting
IALA, Paris, France
8 - 9 September 2025**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.3.6 Organize, prepare, and report on meetings with other organizations, funding agencies, private sector and academia, including the Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IAEA/IALA/FIG/IMPA Capacity Building Coordination meeting.

High level summary:

- The organizations provided an overview of their ongoing activities in the areas of Capacity Building (CB) and Capacity Development (CD).
- The status of existing joint projects was reviewed, and the joint project matrix was updated.
- The organizations agreed to plan and implement five new joint projects for 2026, reinforcing their commitment to collaborative development efforts.
- It was agreed to progress on a concept note for a large-scale joint project, aimed at securing funding from international donors.
- A number of potential funding sources were identified, and strategies for engaging them were discussed.

Details:

The 14th Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG/IMPA Capacity Building (CB) Coordination Meeting was held on 8 and 9 September 2025 at the headquarters of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) in Paris. The main objective of the meeting was to proceed with the coordination of the efforts of international organizations for building and developing capacity in the maritime and marine sectors, in line with the United Nations concept of "Delivering as One". Of the eight organizations: IHO, IMO, WMO, IALA, IOC, IAEA, IALA, FIG and IMPA, two organizations, FIG and IAEA, were not able to attend. Seven representatives from IMO, IOC, IMPA and WMO participated by videoconference. The IHO was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas. The meeting was chaired by Vincent Denamur (IALA) and the final agenda items by Leonel Manteigas (IHO).

During the opening session, IALA Secretary-General Francis Zachariae warmly welcomed the participants stressing the importance of the meeting and highlighted the value of the "Delivering as One" initiative for successful capacity building and training. He expressed gratitude to all participants for their contributions to this important work and encouraged even closer collaboration to provide more effective support and concluded with good wishes for the meeting's success.

Following introductions of the participants, the meeting reviewed the outcomes of previous sessions, specifically the actions that had been agreed. The primary focus was on joint projects and the need to develop additional initiatives to enhance efficiency in their delivery. The representatives of the organizations provided an overview of the activities in the areas of Capacity Building (CB) / Capacity Development (CD) within their respective organizations, with particular emphasis on projects

developed, in progress and under consideration, achievements, challenges and lessons learned in executing CB / CD.

As several new representatives from various organizations were present, the IHO provided an overview of the Capacity Building/Capacity Development (CB/CD) program, outlining the different types of projects: earmarked funds, allocated to specific educational activities by donors, and non-earmarked funds, which are used to support activities proposed by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). The meeting highlighted the shared objective of Member States assessments to better align the CB/CD activities. Reports on the High-Level Visits (HLV) and Technical Visits (TV) conducted over the last three years were presented. Participants were also updated on the success of the IHO 2025 CB Work Programme, which funded all submitted activities aimed at supporting Member States' and the transition to S-100 products and services.

The status and progress of joint projects were discussed. The IHO reminded participants that several joint CB/CD activities were realized and are planned, including the IMO-IHO-IALA Workshops on Capacity Building to enhance navigational safety in the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Joint IHO-IMO-IOC Tides Workshop for English Speakers in 2025, and several Joint IHO-IALA Technical Visits. IALA also reported on its involvement in meetings of four RHCs (NIOHC, SWPHC, SAIHC, and MACHC), recognizing these meetings as valuable opportunities to engage and share information with participants.

To facilitate the submission of joint projects and enable organizations to indicate their willingness to participate, the IHO developed a matrix stored in a shared folder where organizations can propose potential joint projects, rank their priority, and indicate their willingness to participate and contribute with expertise and/or funds. The meeting reviewed the matrix and agreed on the following joint projects to pursue:

- Podcasts related to promoting careers in maritime (led by IMPA)
- Webinar on gender balance, co-led by IHO and IMPA (scheduled for 8 March or 18 May 2026)
- Joint participation in a seminar at MACHC, led by IHO (scheduled for December 2026)
- Workshop in Africa, led by IALA (potentially to be held back-to-back with the SAIHC meeting)
- Workshop on the Caspian Sea, led by IMO, with participation from IALA and IHO (dates TBD)

A major initiative discussed was the development of a joint concept note, led by IMO with contributions from IHO, IALA, IOC, and other stakeholders. The project aims to strengthen global navigational safety by supporting states in fully implementing the "International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea" (SOLAS). The IMO intends to present this initiative to potential donors, leveraging its experience and extensive network. A dedicated meeting to advance this project was scheduled for 30 September.

Under the agenda item on sharing lessons learned from engaging with funding agencies the IHO reported recent efforts to raise Capacity Building (CB) and Capacity Development (CD) funds, including the establishment of a Fundraising Project Team to identify alternative funding sources. It also mentioned a proposal prepared by the IHO-EU Network Working Group on Capacity Development for the European Commission, and the creation of CB/CD funds by the Regional ENC Coordination Centres (RENCs).

IALA proposed inviting the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN), which currently funds IALA's World-Wide Academy, to explore whether they could also contribute to joint CB/CD initiatives. The meeting participants agreed to explore this possibility further.

The potential use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds from the OECD for specific projects was also discussed.

IMO shared that it took significant time and effort to establish reliable connections with funding agencies. However, progress has been made: for example, the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 75) in 2024 secured \$181 million. The IMO emphasized the importance of aligning

project proposals with donor interests and leveraging Member States to build connections with funding sources.

The IMO also informed that the Republic of Korea (ROK) has expressed interest in the Joint Capacity Building Coordination meetings and proposed organizing a meeting during Korea Maritime Week (KMW), involving the IHO and IALA with the ROK Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), to explore potential funding for joint CB/CD projects.

The increasing relevance of e-learning platforms and courses in capacity building and development was widely recognized. These digital tools are enabling broader, more efficient outreach. While certain activities still require in-person components, e-learning can significantly reduce the duration and cost of such engagements. All organizations agreed on the importance of sharing content and experiences and exploring joint courses development. Some, such as the IHO, already require completion of e-Learning modules as a prerequisite for participation in certain CB/CD activities.

Looking ahead, all participants agreed that jointly planned CB/CD projects and coordinated efforts to secure funding are the right path forward.

The group also recognized the importance of reporting its progress. Accordingly, the meeting agreed to prepare a joint information paper to be submitted to IMO's TC 76 in 2026.

Photo



Group photo of some participants at the meeting

Upcoming meetings:

The IOC offered to host the next meeting and will circulate a poll to determine the most suitable dates. All participants agreed that organizations should be strongly encouraged to attend the meeting in person.