Report of the
Meeting of the IALA intersessional VTM Drafting Group
Thursday 7th August 2008
Bergen/Norway

During the VTS Symposium 2008 in Bergen/Norway the intersessional VTM Drafting Group met for a special meeting. Apologizes were received from K. Otto (SA). D. Gonzales (Ch), J.P. Bedin (F) and M. Sollosi (USA, other tasks during the sessions of the Symposium).

Due to serious illness and surgery J.P. Bedin could not attend. All members of the Drafting Group wished him a quick recovery and healthy return to the Group.

Aims of the Meeting
- To reach common agreement on the approach of defining and the development of the scope of a global Vessel Traffic Management (VTM) concept
- Clarification of the level of development of the scope of VTM
- Clarification of the states of Working Paper Vessel Traffic Management version 1.6 dated 4th June 2008
- Clarification of basic principles
- Clarification of the intended process for submission of the concept document to the IALA Council

Discussion
The Group discussed the various matters intensively following the agreed agenda which was handed out by the chairman before the meeting (see Annex).
An extra item of attention was raised as a result of the observations and presentations during the VTS Symposium. Due to the increasing global needs of the various users and stakeholders in the maritime environment and the future implementation of e-navigation (supporting the global concept of VTM) all present representatives at the Symposium agreed that major changes in the VTS domain are to be expected and are likely to have a major impact on VTS operations in the next decade. It was also noticed that
a) in a great number of presentations a variety of non-recognized "self-made" abbreviations were used (e.g. e-VTS, i-VTS, e-VTM, VTS+) and
b) there is still no common understanding of basic principles, responsibilities, services and instruments.
With great concern the Group recognized the dangers and future problems when these developments continue and are not properly co-ordinated in time.

Common understanding
The Group agreed that there is common understanding on a number of principles and the process to be followed:
a. The level of development of the scope the global VTM concept should remain on a sufficient high (strategic) level;
b. The central position but developing role of VTS of the further development of VTM and e-navigation;
c. The Working Paper Vessel Traffic Management version 1.6 dated 4th June 2008 and following versions will remain a Working Paper until the moment that the Group unanimously decides that all identified subjects and points of attention regarding the concept of VTM are identified, discussed and agreed upon. Hereafter the Working Paper will be developed into a (high level) strategy document addressing the concept and scope of VTM for submission, which will be presented to IALA Council by the chairman of the VTS Committee for approval.
d. When approved by the Council the next step will be to inform IMO/NAV accordingly by either a Liaison Statement or a submission. It was the view of the group that IMO/NAV should be kept informed about the intention to develop the VTM concept within the IALA VTS Committee and

that the final paper should be forwarded to IMO/NAV through appropriate channels such as a Liaison Statement or a submission;

e. The VTM paper should provide a basis for the development of Tasks for the next session of committee meetings post the IALA conference in March 2010;

f. Results gained during the development of VTM should be shared with other Committees and/or Working Groups as appropriately;

g. The working definition of VTM, as approved by the IALA Council, should be further developed and explained in the document, including a proper clarification of the compelling need for VTM;

h. The development of VTM should reflect a mission, presented in the document(s);

i. The development of VTM should assist in structuring other relevant discussions;

j. The development of VTM should give all stakeholders in the maritime environment concerned a reference of common understanding of the VTM concept on all levels (strategic, tactical and operational);

k. A number of items mentioned in the Working Paper should be clarified during VTS28;

l. The intersessional VTM Drafting Group should be tasked soonest to develop and/or clarify a variety of relevant definitions, abbreviations, basic principals and other concepts; (Note: the methodology used by Tuncay Cehreli (Turkey) in his presentation on Law Enforcement received a lot of recognition and might be used for identification and description of the primary and supportive services within VTM and future VTS);

m. At VTS28 the timeframe for the development of VTM should be further discussed. Whilst there was general feeling that more time might be needed to complete the defining and scope of VTM; it was recognised that there were competing demands (further to be identified) for the paper to be finalised to inform other work;

n. The intersessional VTM Drafting Group should continue its work as a special group during the 28th and 29th session of the VTS Committee; at VTS28 a decision has to be made whether additional intersessional meetings of the Group are necessary;

o. The approved definition and scope of the global concept of VTM should be proposed as a topic for presentation by the Drafting Group at the IALA Conference 2010 Capetown/South Africa.

Agreements
The report will be sent to the Chairman of the IALA VTS Committee. He is requested
o to support the results of the discussions in this intersessional meeting;
o to task the intersessional VTM Working Group to further define and develop the scope of a global VTM concept with special attention for the items mentioned under a, b, e, f till k;
o to permit the VTM Drafting Group to continue its works during VTS28 and VTS29 as requested.

Additional information regarding the timeframe
Following information was received from the Chairman of the Strategic and Operational Working Group of the VTS Committee and the IALA Secretariat:
o The last VTS Committee meeting of the current session is VTS 30 in September 2009.
o There is no VTS Committee meeting in March 2010; the new session starts with VTS 31 in September 2010.
o From this it becomes fairly clear that the paper should be finalised by the end of VTS 30 in September 2009 so that Council has a chance to consider the content before a presentation is given at Conference;
o This will of course also fit in with the other purpose of the paper to form a basis of selecting tasks for the next session.

Chairman of the intersessional VTM Drafting Group
Pieter Paap (NL)

Meeting of the
IALA Intersessional VTM Drafting Group
Thursday, 7th August 2008
Bergen/Norway

Time: **09.00 – 10.45 hours**
Location: **To be announced**

<u>Agenda</u>

1.   Status / Short Introduction   (Chairman)

- Task
- Timepath
- Working Paper

2.   Exchange of Views

>> Conclusions

3.   Principles

>> Discussion on the principles and items we can agree on
>> Conclusions

4.   Effectiveness of the development process

5.   Next steps

>> Methodology

6.   Follow up

>> Status report to VTS28 (to be delivered latest 22/8 to IALA Secretariat)
>> Identification of items we agreed on to be presented to VTS28
        supporting the further work of other (sub)WGs within the VTS Committee

7.   Closure

<u>Note from Chairman</u>

Our time for this intersessional meeting is limited. Most of us if not all will join the visit to VTS
Fedje. Departuretime for that visit is 11.00 hours sharp.
We have to close our meeting latest at 10.45 hours.