The 17th IALA Conference with the theme Aids to Navigation – A global approach, all waters, all risks, all solutions, was successfully held from 22nd to 29th March 2010 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, co-hosted by the Transnet National Ports Authority of South Africa.

The Conference was attended by more than 400 delegates and many staff from the host country. Delegates represented 59 countries of which 45 were IALA national members.

Presentations and discussions ranged widely on issues from the concept of virtual aids to navigation through risk assessment and management to the application of future technologies. An excellent exhibition was mounted with 36 Industrial Members of IALA providing an opportunity for visitors to view the latest developments in aids to navigation technology and related services.

At its closure the Conference identified a series of conclusions together with recommendations for further action by the organisation.

During the Conference delegates bade farewell to Torsten Kruuse, the organisation’s Secretary General for the past 16 years. He has been succeeded by Gary Prosser, formerly with the Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

At the IALA General Assembly a new Council was elected comprising a national member from the following states: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the People’s Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America.

In addition there are two unelected members of the Council: one hosted the this IALA Conference, South Africa, and the other which will be the host of the following conference, Spain. That conference will be held in 2014 on dates and at a venue to be agreed.
The IALA Council elected as its President Mr David Gordon of South Africa and Mr Manuel Gomez of Spain as Vice-President.

Honorary Personal membership of IALA was conferred upon:

Captain Duncan Glass (Trinity House), former Chairman of the IALA Aids to Navigation Management Committee and architect of the revised Maritime Buoyage Scheme,

Wim van der Heiden (The Netherlands), AIS expert,

Captain Liu Gongchen (People’s Republic of China), outgoing President of IALA,

Mike Sollosi (USA), former Chairman of the IALA VTS Committee

Torsten Kruuse (Denmark), late Secretary General of IALA.

During the Conference delegates were given a presentation on Istanbul where the next International VTS Symposium, hosted by the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, will be held from 10th to 14th September 2012.

Finally, IALA pays tribute to the hosts of the Conference, the many individuals and organisations who assisted in its smooth running and to the sponsors.