



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA

SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Malaysia has signed the Convention on the International Organisation for Marine Aids to Navigation on 16 March 2021 in a signing ceremony held at the Ministry of Transport, Putrajaya.

The Convention is a treaty instrument to transition the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authority (IALA) which is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), into and to be replaced by the International Organisation for Marine Aids to Navigation, which is an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO). This Convention is key to advancing IALA's role with regards to its core objective to enhance the safety and efficiency of maritime navigation by contributing to the improvement and harmonisation of its international action.

As a littoral State of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia's role in ensuring the safety and efficiency of navigation along the strait is taken very seriously. In order to make sure that the Aids to Navigation in Malaysia are up to global standards, Malaysia through its Light Dues Board has been a member of IALA since 1962 and later appointed IALA Council Member in 2002 and serving until today.

IALA's transition from an NGO to an IGO is a monumental event in modern maritime history. The efficiency of maritime transport relies heavily on the Aids to Navigation which enables modern seafarers to transport 90% of the world's cargo securely, with more than 98,000 vessels moving around the globe every single day. This underscores the importance of maritime sector as the linchpin of global economy, connecting the world through shipping of goods and further expanding the economy.





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Malaysia plays a significant role to the Convention, as the text of Convention was authenticated here in Kuala Lumpur during the IALA Diplomatic Conference which was held from 25 to 28 February 2020.

The Government of the French Republic, serving as the depositary State and the seat of the IALA headquarters, had announced on 27 January 2021 that the Convention is open for signature. States that are interested to be signatory to the Convention, which open for signature by all United Nations member states, is invited to sign in France. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia has engaged to sign the convention in Putrajaya. This occasion marks the first instance of such a signature being conducted outside of the French Republic.

Malaysia is represented by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport as signatory to the Convention. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of the Ambassador of France to Malaysia, His Excellency Roland Galharague, members of the Light Dues Board as well as MOT top management. Also present were His Excellency Serge Segura, Ambassador for Special Representative for Maritime Negotiations, His Excellency Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet, Deputy Director of United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and Francophony, France as well as Mr. Francis Zachariae, Secretary General of IALA and also the Malaysian Embassy in France, which participated virtually.

As part of the signatory party to the Convention, Malaysia invites all States to also take part in supporting the Convention where it is now open for one year from 27 January 2021 and will hopefully be ratified and enter into force, thus transforming IALA into IGO status.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA
16 March 2021

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About MOT:

The Ministry of Transport Malaysia has determined to be the leader of an integrated, efficient and secure transportation system by empowering technology-based transportation systems as the catalyst for national development.

Media Enquiries

**Ministry of Transport Malaysia
Corporate Communication Unit**

Tel +603 8892 1006 (Press Secretary)
+603 8892 1027 (Corporate Communication Unit)
Fax +603 8892 0208
E-mail sua@mot.gov.my
unitkomunikasikorporat@mot.gov.my

