



10 - 13 November 2026

WORKSHOP ON VDES SATELLITES

Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI), Japan



The International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA), in association with the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) is hosting a Workshop on VDES Satellites, to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 10 to 13 November 2026.

BACKGROUND

Since the term VDES was established in Tokyo in 2012, significant progress has been made towards its international implementation. Following recent IMO developments on SOLAS amendments and VDES Performance Standards, implementation activities are now accelerating worldwide.

Japan has been at the forefront of VDES development including satellite component through collaborative projects involving JCG, OPRI-SPF, and other partners, including successful demonstrations of satellite VDES services for dissemination of S-100 data products. This workshop provides a timely opportunity to exchange knowledge and support the next stage of global VDES Satellite implementation.

PURPOSE

The workshop aims to:

- promote awareness of VDES Satellite services across the maritime community
- provide a forum for dialogue between service providers and users
- identify operational requirements for Aids to Navigation (AtoN), Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), and other maritime communication services
- discuss technical, regulatory, and operational challenges
- identify the future role of IALA in supporting VDES Satellite implementation.

OBJECTIVE

Participants will work together to:

- develop guidance for IALA Members on the future use of VDES Satellite
- contribute to the development of a practical user manual
- formulate IALA's position on VDES Satellite for consideration by IMO and ITU
- identify future collaborative activities supporting global implementation.

ATTENDEES

The workshop is intended for:

- Marine Aids to Navigation authorities
- Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) authorities
- Maritime administrations
- Satellite operators and space agencies
- Maritime communication service providers
- Navigation equipment manufacturers
- International organizations (IMO, ITU, IHO, IMSO, IEC, CIRM, RTCM)
- Ship owners and operators
- Seafarers' organizations
- Researchers and industry experts involved in VDES technologies.

The workshop will provide a forum for discussion between different stakeholders, which may include IALA national, industrial, and associate members and sister organizations.



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International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation

VENUE

CONFERENCE VENUE 10-13 NOV 2026

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
International Conference Hall, 11th floor
1-15-16 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
Get off at Toranomon Station via Tokyo Metro Ginza Line
1 minute walk from Exit 2b



WORKSHOP FEE

The fee for the workshop is €700. The fee includes participation in all workshop sessions, a technical tour, a welcome reception on Tuesday, and a workshop dinner on Thursday.

HOTEL

HOTELS AROUND SPF

LUXURY	MID-RANGE	BUDGET
<u>Hotel Toranomon Hills</u> Closest hotel, brand new, top-tier location and design	<u>The Blossom Hibiya</u> Modern, high guest satisfaction, excellent city views	<u>The b shimbashi</u> Simple, efficient business hotel with good access to Shimbashi Station
<u>ANA InterContinental Hotel</u> Established luxury hotel with strong international reputation and business	<u>Dai-ichi Hotel Tokyo</u> Classic full-service hotel with spacious rooms and reliable service	<u>1899 Hotel</u> Boutique hotel with Japanese-style design and refined atmosphere



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1 - Tuesday 10 November 2026, 09:00 – 17:00

Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

Session 4

Welcome reception, 18:20 – 20:00

DAY 2 - Wednesday 11 November 2026, 09:00 – 17:00

Session 5,6,7,8

Working groups

DAY 3 - Thursday 12 November 2026, 09:00 – 17:00

Session 9,10

Working groups

Technical tour + Workshop dinner, 14:00 – 20:00

DAY 4 - Friday 13 November 2026, 09:00 – 12:00

Session 11

WG reports

Session 12

Workshop Conclusions