

The Enhanced Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Operator Training Project for ASEAN

January 9, 2024



The Enhanced Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Operator Training Project for ASEAN including the self-learning training program in each home country and the face-to-face training program at the ASEAN Regional Training Center for VTS (ARTV), Maritime Transport Training Institute (MATRAIN) in Malaysia was conducted during August 15 - December 25, 2023 by the support from the Government of Japan through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The VTS is a service that is defined by International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Regulation V/12 to contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment. Many ASEAN Member States (AMSs) have established or are planning to establish VTS centers but only few countries have VTS operators training system in accordance with international standards, i.e. International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Recommendation R0103.

The aim of this Project is to increase the number of qualified VTS operators by continuing their training in ARTV.

This Project is a training program to provide trainees in AMSs with lectures for knowledge and skills up for exercise/simulation practices in order to certificate as a VTS Operator. It is necessary for engaging in marine/river safety navigation services in each AMS.

The training program is also conducted in accordance with the IMO Resolution A.1158(32) “Guideline for Vessel Traffic Services” and IALA Model Course C0103-1 “VTS Operator Training”.

The training program consists of two stages. The 1st stage was self-study, e-learning training at each country from September 11 until September 30, 2023 and followed by 2nd stage, attending face to face training in MATRAIN from October 30 until December 01, 2023. The trainee needs to pass the pre-examination in the e-learning to enable attending the face-to-face training in MATRAIN.

The module of the training complies with IALA Model Course C0103-1 “VTS Operator Training” program, and consists of seven (7) modules, (1) Communication Coordination and Interaction, (2) Legal Framework, (3) Provision of VTS, (4) Nautical Knowledge, (5) Equipment, (6) Human Factors and (7) Emergency Situations are prepared. At the end of the training, the trainee will undergo assessment by assessors and upon successfully passing the assessment, will be certified as the VTS Operators. The certified VTS Operator engaging at a VTS center could contribute for marine/river safety in his/her country.

All the trainees expressed their gratitude to JAIF and the implementing organizations (JANA, Expert Group (EG), and MATRAIN), and strongly requested that similar VTS training programs could be carried out to AMSs, ensuring the continuity of the program.

Furthermore, they committed to transfer and share the knowledge and skills necessary for engaging in VTS to other personnel in the office.



Lecture



VTS simulation exercise



Chart work exercise