



中华人民共和国海事局

MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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August 7, 2026

To Mr. Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General
International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA)
10, Rue des Gaudines
78100 Saint Germain En Laye
France
E-mail : secgen@iala.int

INVITATION TO THE 5TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION (IALA)

Dear Secretary-General,

It is my honour to extend a sincere invitation to you and, through you, to all relevant members, to attend the 5th session of the Council of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA), which will be held from 30 November to 4 December 2026 in Guangzhou, China, hosted by the Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China (China MSA) in close collaboration with IALA.

Since its establishment in 1957, IALA and its members have worked tirelessly in a common effort to improve and harmonize Marine Aids to Navigation worldwide. This has ensured safe, expeditious and cost-effective vessel movements while protecting the environment. The year 2024 marked a historic moment as IALA transformed into an intergovernmental organization, demonstrating its importance to international maritime transport.

China joined IALA in 1984 and has been a member of the IALA Council since 1994. China MSA successfully hosted the 16th IALA Conference in Shanghai in 2006 and held the IALA Presidency from 2006 to 2010. China MSA has actively participated in the development of IALA standards, recommendations and guidelines, and remains committed to advancing the global harmonization of Marine Aids to Navigation and enhancing the safety of maritime navigation.

Guangzhou, the host city, is a millennia-old commercial metropolis situated at the mouth of the Pearl River and one of the birthplaces of the ancient Maritime Silk Road. Guangzhou port has remained open to the world for over two thousand years. Today, Guangzhou lies at the heart of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which hosts one of the world's busiest port clusters, including the ports of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. China MSA is actively advancing the construction of the Pearl River Delta Smart Waterway AtoN Service Demonstration Zone in this region, where smart AtoN practices are highly active.

The meeting will be held at Guangdong Yingbin Hotel. Enclosed as Annexes are a map of Guangdong Yingbin Hotel, a list of nearby hotels for reference, a registration form, as well as links to digital brochures and videos highlighting Guangzhou's culture, premier attractions and culinary offerings. The Chinese authorities will provide necessary assistance and facilitation to delegates in respect of visa applications. Participants can contact Mr Luo Ziwen at hschc@nhhb.org.cn for specific matters related to the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you at the 5th session of the Council of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation in Guangzhou.

Yours sincerely,

Xu Wei

Director General

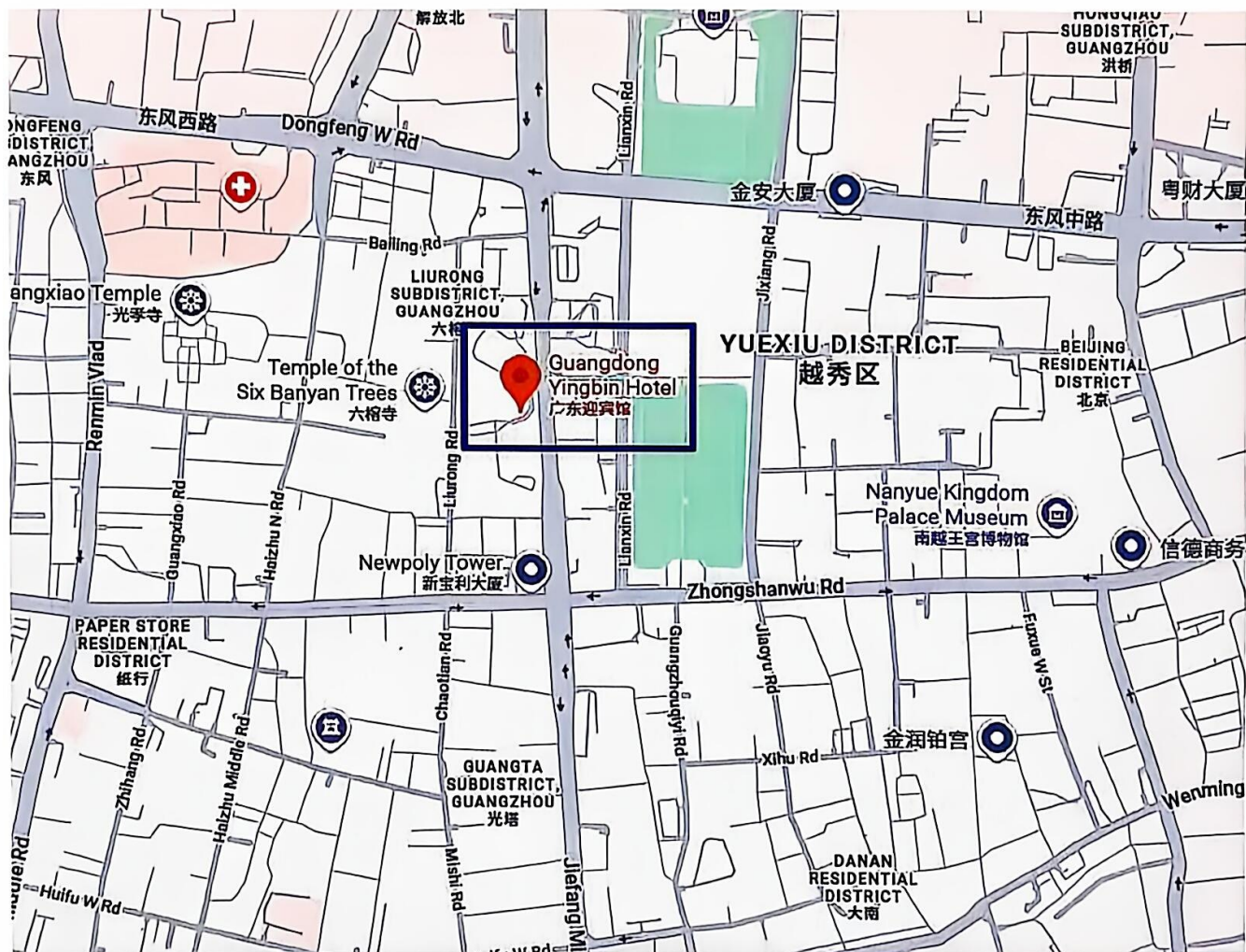
Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China



Annex A: Map of Guangdong Yingbin Hotel

Address: No.603 Jiefang North Road Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Website: www.yingbinhotel.cn/en/



Annex B: List of nearby hotels

Hotel	Address	Distance from venue	Category
Guangdong Yingbin Hotel	No.603 Jiefang North Road,Yue Xiu District	Venue	★★★★★
Guangdong Hotel	No.309, Dongfengzhong Road, Yue Xiu District	742m	★★★★
Canton Hotel Guangzhou, Tapestry Collection by Hilton	No.374, Beijing Road, Yue Xiu District	826m	★★★★★
China Hotel Guangzhou	No122, Liu Hua Road, Yue Xiu District	1.2km	★★★★★
Guangzhou Hotel	No.2 Qiyi Road, Yuexiu District	1.5km	★★★★
Asia International Hotel Guangdong	No. 326-1 Huanshi East Road East, Yue Xiu District	2.2km	★★★★★
Crowne Plaza Guangzhou City Centre by IHG	No. 339 Huanshi Road East, Yue Xiu District	2.4km	★★★★★
Baiyun Hotel Guangzhou	No.367 ,Huanshi East Road, Yue Xiu District	2.7km	★★★★★
Garden Hotel Guangzhou	No. 368 Huanshi East Road, Yuexiu District	2.7km	★★★★★

Annex C: Registration Form

THE 5TH SESSION OF IALA COUNCIL

REGISTRATION FORM

30 November - 4 December 2026, Guangzhou

Surname: _____

First name: _____

Gender: _____

Organization: _____

Country: _____

Arrival /Departure dates: _____

Hotel: _____

Do you need a formal invitation letter for visa purpose? Yes _____ No _____

Do you need airport transfer ? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, fill in flight details : Flight number/Arrival time/Departure time: _____

Will you be accompanied? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, Partner Name and Surname: _____

Will you attend the Friday technical visit?: _____

If yes, number of persons: _____

Will you attend the Dinner?: _____

If yes, number of persons: _____

Please kindly return the completed form to hschc@nhhb.org.cn.

copy to contact@iala.int by September 30, 2026.

Thank you!

Annex D: Information on Guangzhou.

Guangzhou City Overview(Covering History, Shopping, Recreation and more)	
Charm Canton and Glory Guangzhou (Guangzhou Promotional Video)	
Guangzhou Promotional Animation	
Plan a Trip to Guangzhou 2026: Best Time, Attractions & Itinerary	
Guangzhou Travel & Tourism	