

**IALA COUNCIL**  
**70<sup>th</sup> session**



**10-13 December 2019**  
**Noumea**  
**New Caledonia**

## **8 – STRATEGY AND POLICY**

### ***8.7 – World Marine Aids to Navigation Day***

#### **8.7.2 – Arrangement for WATON Day 2020**

Note by the Secretariat

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Following the success of the initial World Marine Aids to Navigation Day 2019 in Balearic Island, Spain a letter was sent to all IALA Members on July 15, 2019 thanking everyone for their enthusiastic participations. In this letter all members were invited to submit their proposals for a venue for the next main event. The deadline was set by end of October 2019.

Before the deadline end of October Bulgaria and Japan have sent their proposals.

**The Director-General of the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company**, the national member, suggests hosting a main event in the newly build Congress centre in the city of Burgas. Burgas is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria located on the Black Sea. The port is the largest in Bulgaria with a very modern VTS centre.

**The Director-General, Maritime Traffic Department, Japan Coast Guard**, the National member, suggest hosting a main event in Japan. The Director-General mention that 2020 is a historic year for Japan as Japan hosts the Paralympic Games in Tokyo and additional it is expected to be a historic year for IALA since the planned Diplomatic Conference in Malaysia will adopt the draft Convention text for the status change of IALA.

Attached you will find the generous invitations from Bulgaria and Japan.

#### **THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO**

**Approve** the host or hosts for the 2020 World Marine Aids to Navigation Day, main event(s).



## BULGARIAN PORTS INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE - SOFIA

Sofia 1574, bul. "Shipchenski проход" № 69, e-mail: [office@bgports.bg](mailto:office@bgports.bg), Tel: (+359 2) 8079999, Fax: (+359 2) 8079966

To

**MR. FRANCIS ZACHARIAE**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities - IALA**  
Saint Germaine en Laye, France, [secgen@iala-aism.org](mailto:secgen@iala-aism.org)/ [contact@iala-aism.org](mailto:contact@iala-aism.org)

Your ref.: PR/WAtoN/2020/19-181

Subject: *World Marine Aids to Navigation Day (WAtoN) 2020*

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ТРАНСПОРТА ИНФОРМАЦИОННИТЕ ТЕХНОЛОГИИ И СЪБЩЕНИЯТА ДЛ "ПРИСТАНИЩНА ИНФРАСТРУКТУРА" гр.София 1574 бул."Шипченски проход" № 69, тел. 8079999 факс. 8079966 Регистрационен номер и дата 11-04-9-1/10.10.19
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**DEAR MR. ZACHARIAE,**

The Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company would like to thank you for your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and welcomes the opportunity to express its support to the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day established by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities - IALA.

In this relation it is my great pleasure to propose the city of Burgas for the next main event in 2020. Burgas is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, located on the Black Sea Coast. Its strategic place on Europe's map has helped it to develop as an easily reachable place which is an important industrial, transport, cultural and tourist center. The Port of Burgas is the oldest and largest seaport in the country and since its foundation in 1903 the port has turned into a modern port facility infrastructure with state-of-the-art equipment and deep-water berths. The airport of Burgas which serves international flights is the second-most important in the country and is situated at a distance of 10 km north-east from the city.

Currently the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company is constructing a Congress Scientific-Research Center for Control and Exploration of the Black Sea in Burgas. The six-level modern building is very well located at the port, close to the Coastal Traffic Management and Information Center, the Marine Station and the main pedestrian area in the center of Burgas. The total 7000 m<sup>2</sup> space of the building includes a multifunctional hall for up to 500 people, offices, research and development rooms and more. Except as a scientific-research and control center for the Black sea it will be used as a venue for exhibitions, concerts, attractions and various educational events. The construction of the Congress Center will be completed by the end of 2019.

The newly build unique Congress Center is a customizable venue that can match every need and is perfect for the celebration of the WAtoN 2020. The Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company would be honored to have the opportunity to host the celebration of such significant event as WAtoN 2020 and to contribute to the IALA goal to promote greater awareness of enhancing the safety of navigation and the protection of the environment worldwide. Furthermore this could be a good occasion to promote the vital role of IALA and its Committees among the Black sea countries in order to successfully promote the AtoN as modern, technologically advanced marine aids for efficient navigation at the region.

Attached to this letter is additional information for your consideration.

Yours cordially,

**ANGUEL ZABOURTOV**

Director General

Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company

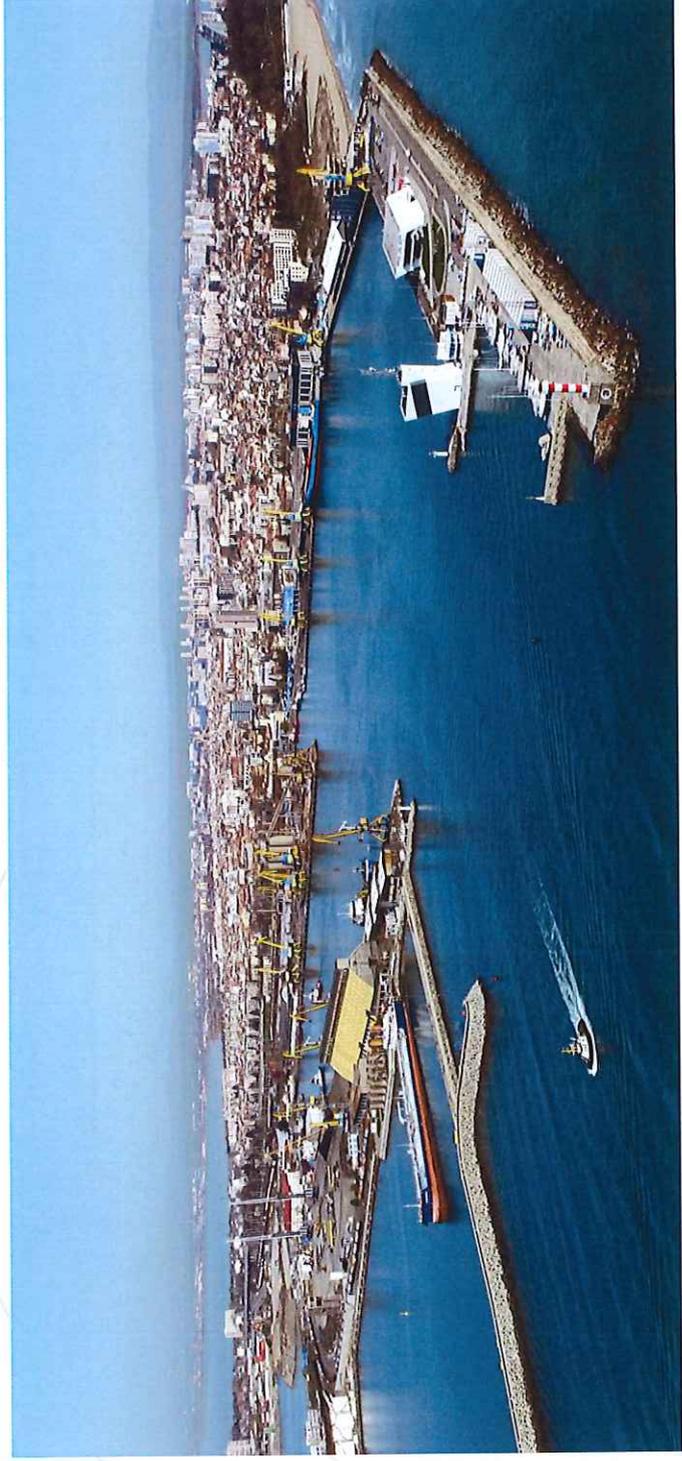




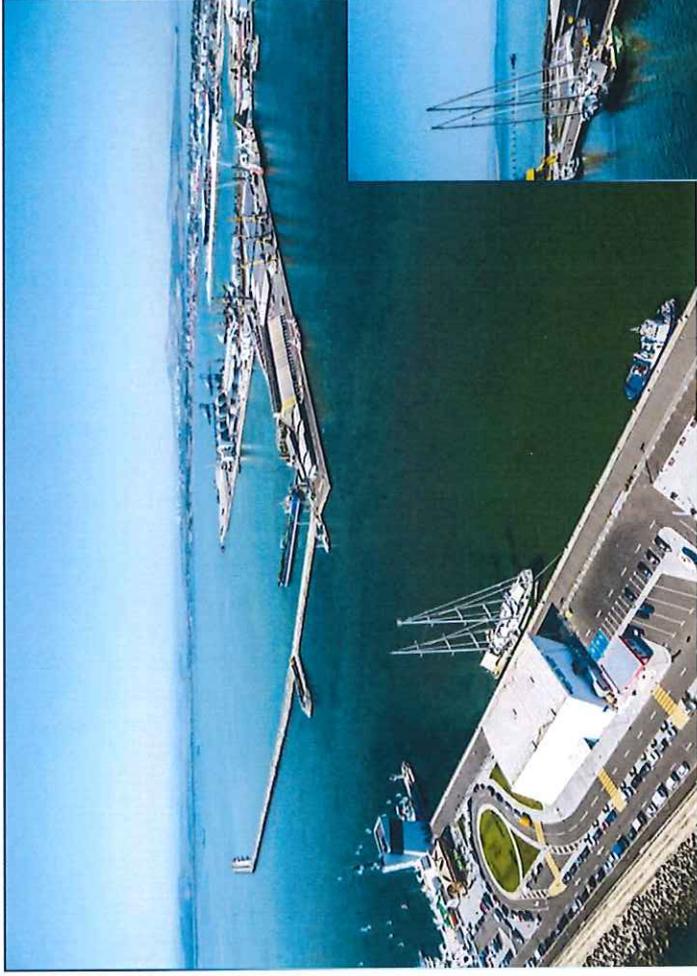
## BULGARIAN PORTS INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY

**Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company (BPI Co.)** is the National Ports Authority, manages the infrastructure of the public transport ports and provides traffic management and shipping information services. BPI Co. has four territorial and three specialized divisions in Burgas, Varna, Lom and Ruse.

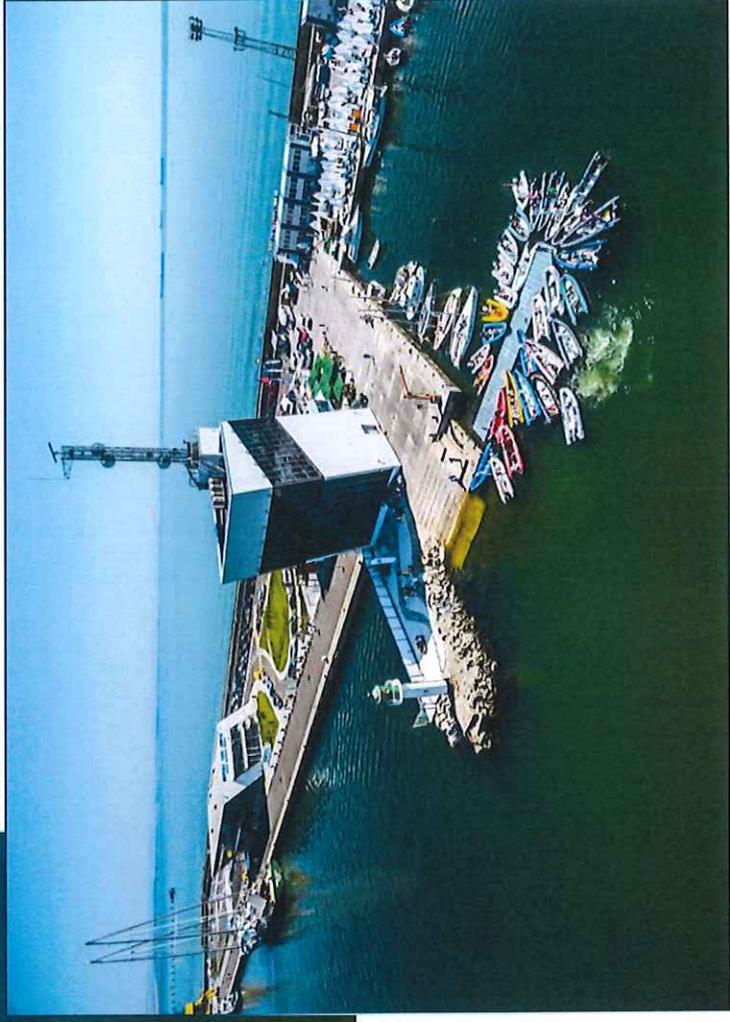
**Burgas** is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, located on the Black Sea Coast. Its strategic place on Europe's map has helped it to develop as an easily reachable place which is an important industrial, transport, cultural and tourist centre.



The city is surrounded by the Burgas Lakes and located at the westernmost point of the Black Sea, at the large Burgas Bay. In Burgas is situated the largest oil refinery in southeastern Europe. The Port of Burgas is the largest port in Bulgaria, and Burgas Airport is the second-most important in the country. Burgas is the center of the Bulgarian fishing and fish processing industry.



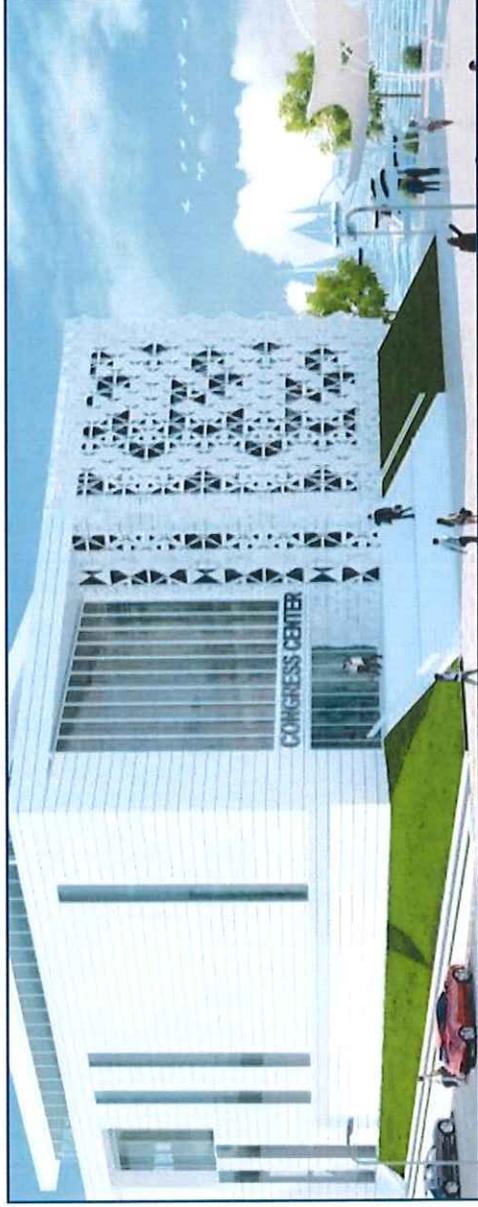
Port of Burgas



Coastal Center Burgas

## **Congress Scientific-Research Center for Control and Exploration of the Black Sea**

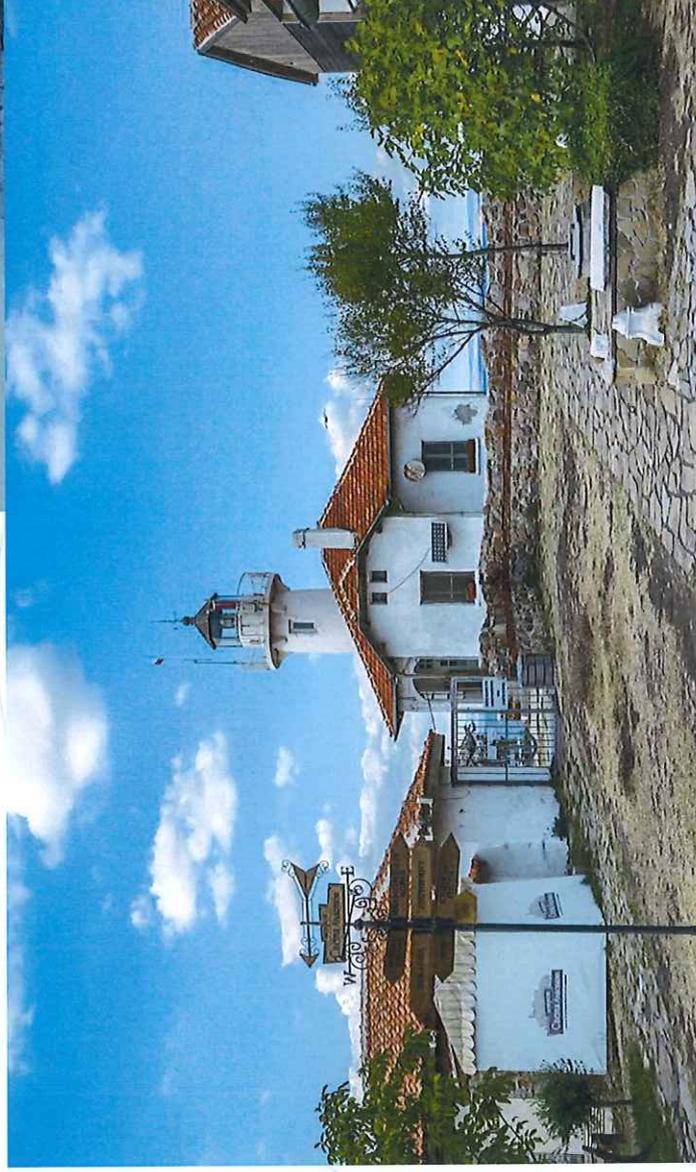
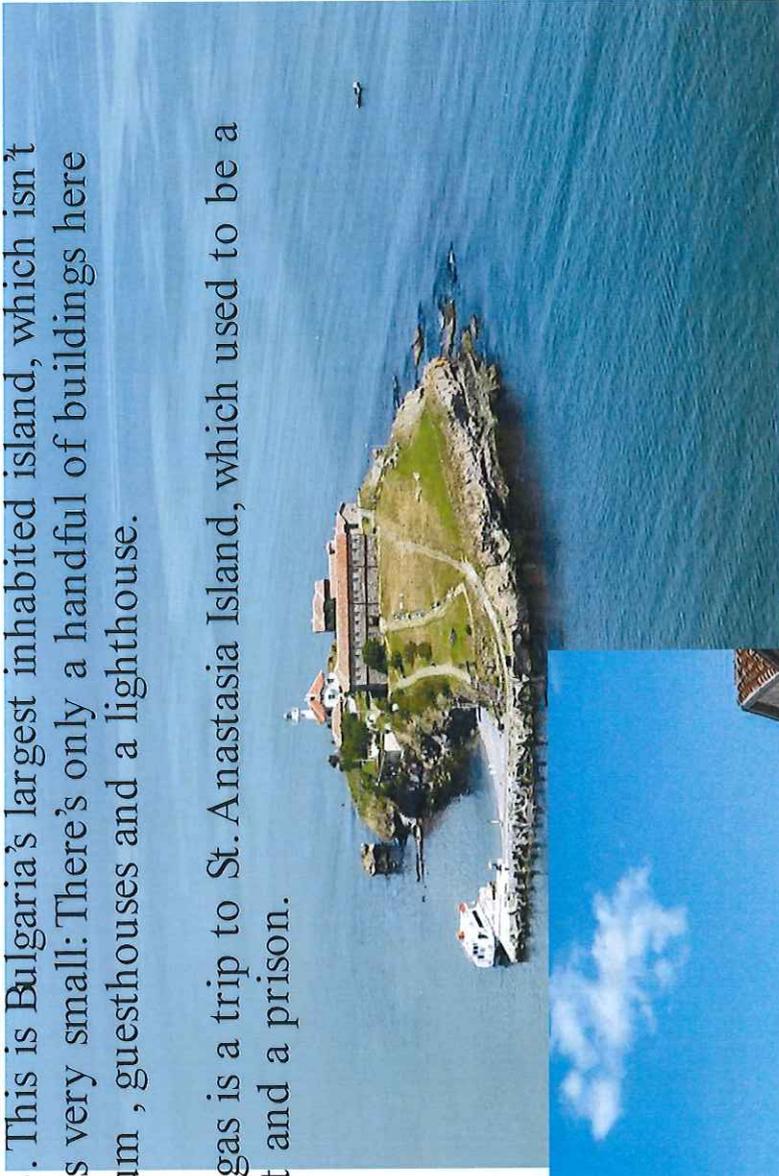
The six-level modern building is very well located at the port, close to the Coastal Traffic Management and Information Center, the Marine Station and the main pedestrian area in the center of Burgas. The total 7000 m<sup>2</sup> space of the building includes a multifunctional hall for up to 500 people, offices, research and development rooms and more. Except as a scientific-research and control centre for the Black sea it will be used as a venue for exhibitions, concerts, attractions and various educational events.



## **St. Anastasia Island**

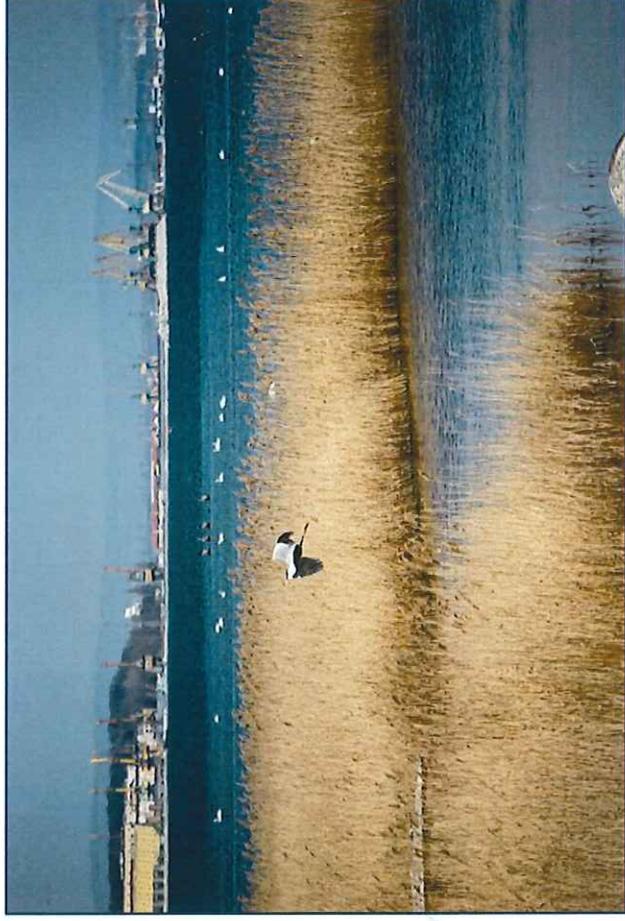
The small island near the beautiful seaside city has become a top attraction since it opened for visitors in 2014. This is Bulgaria's largest inhabited island, which isn't saying a lot as St. Anastasia is very small: There's only a handful of buildings here including a restaurant, museum, guesthouses and a lighthouse.

One of the highlights of Burgas is a trip to St. Anastasia Island, which used to be a pirate den, a monastic retreat and a prison.



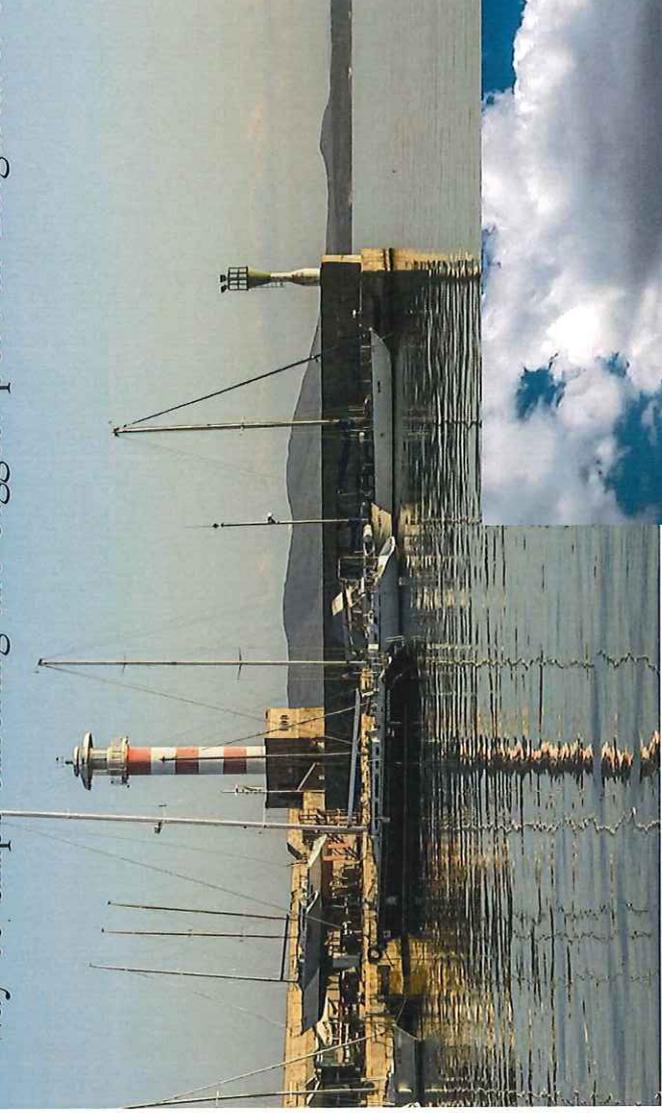
## **Poda Protected Area**

A waterfront park of a wilder variety: Poda is a wetland reserve just south of the city. The low-lying setting around Burgas makes for large saline and freshwater lakes, and big swathes of marshland such as Poda, which is between the sea and Lake Mandrensko. As a real focus it concentrates the essence of the bird diversity of the region. This explains the amazing fact that on its just 1 sq. km surface Poda shelters 290 bird species, which is more than the half of all recorded in Bulgaria. People come to catch a glimpse of the rich birdlife that is supported by the wetlands.



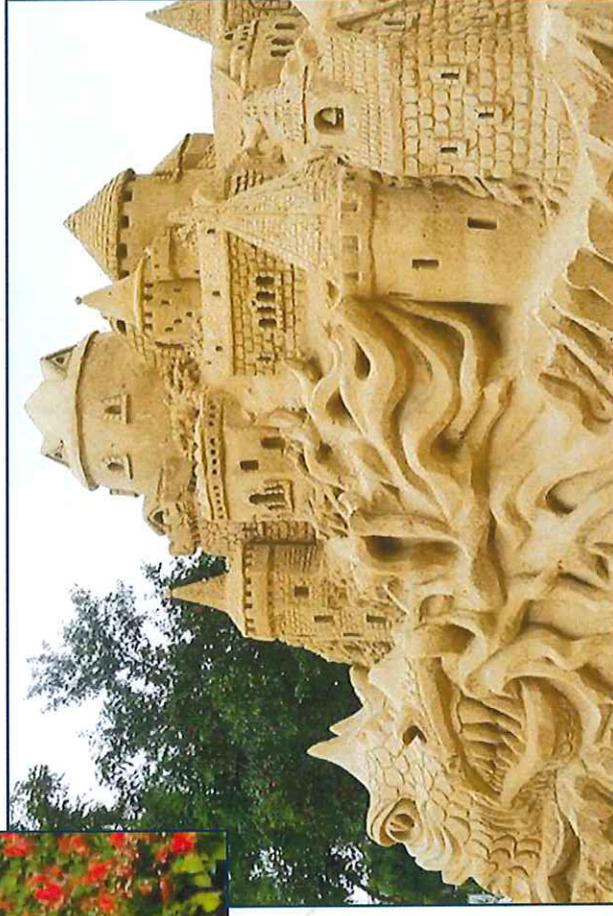
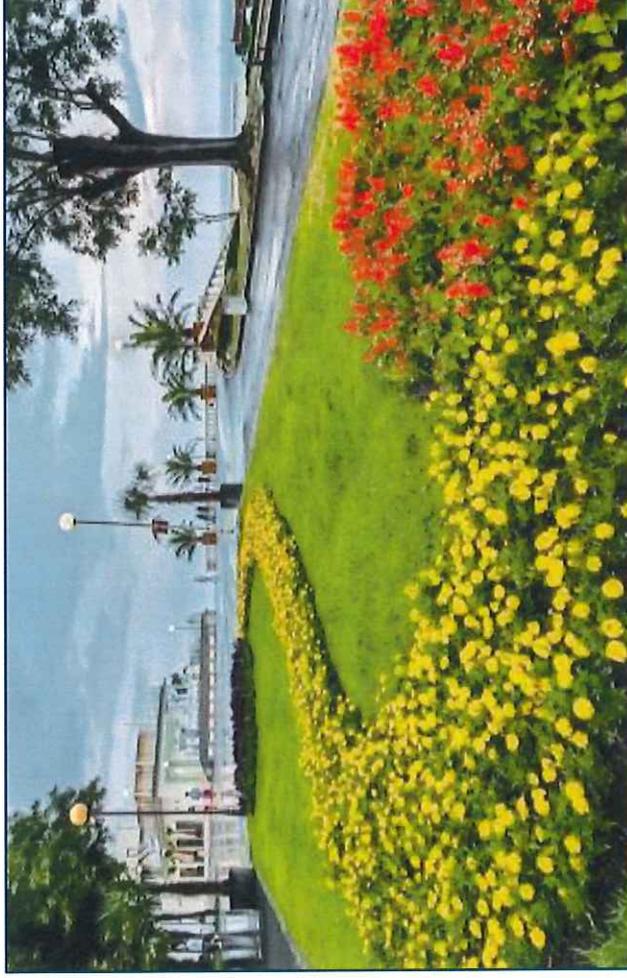
## The Lighthouse

It is an important symbol of the city. It is more than 100 years old and shows the way to ships entering the biggest port in Bulgaria. It can be seen from the Pier.



## The Sea Garden

Recently renovated, the Sea Garden of Burgas is shady and bursting with colorful flowers, along the coast. Within these 72,000 square m are wooded parkland, elegant promenades with fountains, playgrounds, cafes, ice cream stands, an open air theatre, tennis courts – the choice of things to do just goes on and on, and in the summer evenings you can come down for a classical concert. The Sand Festival is held annual, and takes place all summer long, usually from June till the end of September. Every year the figures are united by a single topic: cinema characters, safari, fairy tales, carnival, etc. The festival area is located at one of the corners of the Sea Garden in Burgas.



## Museum of Aviation

Located at the entrance of Burgas Airport, the exhibition aims to recreate the aviation technique through many curious authentic objects such as a rich collection of aircraft models, author's objects and costumes, interactive installations and archives from the aviation history. Visitors can sit on the pilot seat of the world's most popular single-engine and dual-plane aircraft, to feel closely the effect of a working aircraft engine, to teach a real black box of an airplane and navigation devices aiming to complete the experience.



## Ethnographic Museum

Located in a beautiful house dated mid-19th century, the museum showcases the traditional culture and everyday life of the old Burgas. The permanent exhibition shows the most attractive collection of Bulgarian traditional costumes from all ethnographic groups in the Burgas area, including those of Bulgarian immigrants from present day Greece and Turkey territories.



## Archaeological Museum

The Museum hosts unique archaeological findings collections from Ancient Thracia, the Greek colonies along the Black Sea Coast and the Roman Empire. The Ancient Thracians dominated this region and left behind a whole load of artefacts you can peruse this handsome 19th-century former schoolhouse. One of the most must-see exhibits features the treasures discovered in the tomb of a Thracian princess. An entire Bronze Age settlement has also been discovered underwater close to Burgas, and you'll see maritime tools recovered from this site.



## The History Museum of Burgas

keeps the treasures of the past, such as books, Orthodox icons, and European fine and applied art from 18th and 19th centuries. You will hear the story of how Burgas started developing into a modern European city after Bulgaria was liberated from Ottoman rule in 1878. The World Scripts exhibition explains how some of the most interesting scripts from around the world were formed: Egyptian hieroglyphs, cuneiform script, the Cyrillic alphabet, the Latin letters.





**JAPAN COAST GUARD**

*2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8918 Japan*

31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dear Mr. Francis ZACHARIAE,

Responding to your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019, I am pleased to submit our proposal to host the main event of the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day 2020 in Japan.

The year 2020 is historic year for Japan as Japan hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo and additionally it is expected to be a historic year for also IALA since the planned Diplomatic Conference in Malaysia will adopt the draft Convention text for the status change of IALA. Considering these opportunity, I believe that holding the main event in Japan could show the importance of aids to navigation service and IALA to wider public include foreign visitors to Japan.

If the Council approve our proposal, I assure that we will closely cooperate with the Secretariat to make the main event of the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day 2020 successful and fruitful for the world aids to navigation community and IALA.

Yours sincerely,

VADM. Norihiro TAKASUGI  
Director General  
Maritime Traffic Department  
Japan Coast Guard