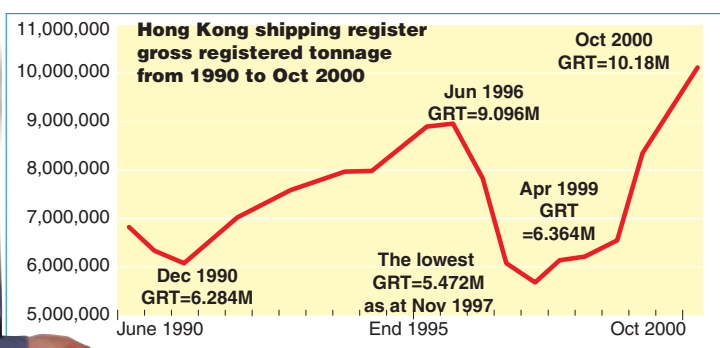


# HONG KONG MARITIME 香港海事通訊 NEWS



## HK Shipping Register tops 10 million GRT



Full steam ahead ...  
Marine Department Director Tsui Shung-yiu.

THE Hong Kong Shipping Register has surpassed the 10 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) target set by the Financial Secretary in his 1999-2000 budget speech.

"We arrived at the 10.18 million GRT figure on October 31, 2000 -- one and a half years ahead of

the scheduled date in April 2002," said the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's Marine Department Director, Tsui Shung-yiu.

He said the target was achieved with the support of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese shipping companies.

"They have confidence in the Hong Kong shipping register as they know the service that we provide is excellent, user friendly and of high quality," he added.

In addition, the shipping register is also reliable and is managed by a responsible administration.

Marine Department officials will continue to visit shipowners as they did before, firstly, to update them about international developments, and secondly, to get feedback to further improve its provision of services.

Mr Tsui said the Department had adequate resources and manpower to deal with any increase in tonnage on the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

The return of the shipping register to its former glory days is a feather in the cap for the Marine Department because the register fell to a low of 5.47 million GRT in 1997 from its peak of 9.096 million GRT in 1996.

(Note: Those interested in the Hong Kong Shipping Register are welcome to call our Registrar of Ships at tel. (852) 2852 4383, fax: (852) 2541 8842 or e-mail: [hksr@mardep.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:hksr@mardep.gcn.gov.hk). User-friendly application forms can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.info.gov.hk/mardep>.)

## Dalian seminar draws warm response for Hong Kong Shipping Register

A SUDDEN temperature drop from 20 to 12 degrees failed to dampen the spirits of the Marine Department which successfully held a one-day seminar in Dalian, mainland China, to promote the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

Held on October 11 on the premises of co-organiser Dalian Maritime University, the seminar was designed to woo shipowners in Dalian and its vicinity to register their vessels on the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

Although this was the Marine Department's first Hong Kong Shipping Register promotion seminar in mainland China, it was well attended by over 60 guests, including representatives from the Dalian shipping industry and relevant organisations.

Most guests said they found the information from the seminar very useful, adding that the shipping register package was "very attractive" for their shipping business.

Some said they would seriously consider switching their ships to the Hong Kong flag.

Before the event, Marine Department officials called on major shipping companies in China individually to promote the register.

Marine Department officials who spoke at the seminar included Deputy Director Tsang Man-ching, General Manager of Shipping Registry and Seafarers Branch Lee Kai-leung and Chief Assistant Registrar So Ping-chi.

Six other guest speakers, Mr YK Chan of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Miss Sharon Chen (Hong Kong solicitor), Mr Yang Xinjai of the MSA (Beijing), Mr Wang Chen of Chinese Classification Society (Beijing), Mr. Sun Jia-kang of CO-



Winning team ... Mr MC Tsang, Deputy Director of Marine (left) and Mr Sun L. Cheng, Vice-President, Dalian Maritime University.

SCO (Beijing) and Dr Yang Zan of the Dalian Maritime University presented various papers.

Topics discussed related to shipowners' views on the Hong Kong Shipping Register, company registration in Hong Kong, PRC shipping register, the new policy of International Association of Classification Societies, the World Trade Organisation impact on PRC shipping industry and analysis on shipping registers.

Two active question and answer sessions were also held.

The Marine Department hosted a dinner party for the guests after the seminar.

# High-level delegations and VIPs visit Marine Department

THE Marine Department played host to a number of high-level delegations and VIPs between September and November.

A delegation of US Coast Guards led by General Michael PC Carns visited the Department and Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu briefed the visitors about the latest developments in Hong Kong.

Visitors were received from Brisbane Airport Corporation, Finnish business organisation, Straightway, Ishikari Bay New Port Authority and Port of Bilbao delegation from Spain, during this period.

A group of mainland maritime judges, a delegation of COSCO Hong Kong Group and a delegation of China Shipping Group also paid separate visits to the Department.



In appreciation ... Marine Department Director Tsui Shung-yiu (left) and China Shipping Group president Li Kelin.



Brisbane Airport Corporation delegates on board VIP launch "Tin Hau".



Meeting of minds ... Marine Department Director Tsui Shung-yiu (second from left) and his officials hold talks with a delegation from the China Shipping Group led by its president, Mr Li Kelin (right).



Getting down to business ... Marine Department Director Tsui Shung-yiu (centre) briefs a delegation from the Finnish business organisation, Straightway.

One for the album ... a Spanish delegation from the Port of Bilbao poses for a group photograph.



Top brass ... General Michael PC Carns of the US Coast Guards presents Marine Department Director Tsui Shung-yiu with a plaque as a token of appreciation.



Legal eagles ... a delegation from the Guangzhou Maritime Judges Association paid a visit to the Marine Department.

Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu briefs a delegation of US Coast Guards on VIP launch "Tin Hau"

## Testing readiness of Hongkong's oil combat contingency

AN OIL combat drill code-named "Sundance 2000" was carried out in October to test the response from various parties involved in containing and cleaning up oil spills.

The exercise, which was carried out at the ungazetted beach off Pearl Island, Tuen Mun, involved Government Departments and oil companies.

"The drill was to test the ability, limitation and contingency in boom deployment, clean-up application and communication, and to seek possible enhancement in future response strategy," said Senior Marine Officer Mr LK Szeto.

The exercise simulated a 30,000 tonnes deadweight tonnes laden tanker "Sundance 2000" which had run aground off Pearl Island with 200 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spilt into the water at 0850 hrs on October 19, 2000.

According to the Marine Department, the number of oil pollution cases in Hong Kong fell to 86 in 1999 from 94 in 1998.

And between January to October 16, 2000 the number of cases decreased even further to 42.

## Marine Department coordinates search-and-rescue drill

FIVE Government departments and three shipping companies took part in a marine search-and-rescue exercise, code-named "Sarex Two Thousand" on October 17, 2000.

The drill -- coordinated by the Marine Department's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) at the waters to the south of Lamma Power Station -- involved a staged collision of two high-speed ferries, Ferry X and Ferry Y.

"As there are many high-speed ferries going in and out of Hong Kong daily, there is a need to ensure quick response action is taken in case of emergencies," Senior Marine Officer Mr KW Chan said.

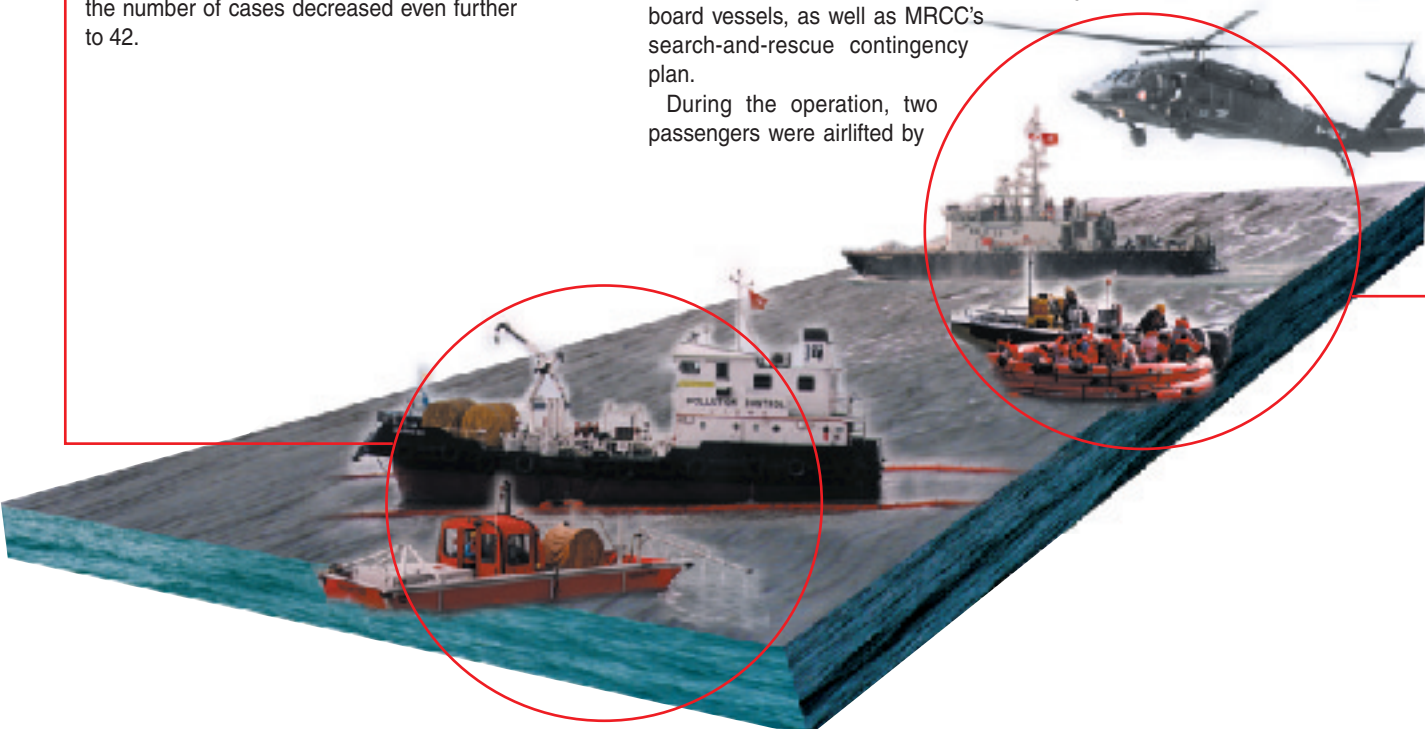
The exercise tested the communication efficiency between MRCC and high-speed ferries during emergencies, the emergency procedures on board vessels, as well as MRCC's search-and-rescue contingency plan.

During the operation, two passengers were airlifted by

helicopter to the hospital -- the first involved a seriously injured passenger and the second was another passenger who fell overboard into the water.

A third high-speed ferry, Ferry Z, helped to transport the passengers of Ferries X and Y back to Hong Kong.

Five Government launches and one helicopter from the Marine Department, Marine Police, Fire Services Department, Government Flying Service and over 100 Civil Aid Service staff participated in the exercise. Meanwhile, Shun Tak-China Travel Shipping Investments Ltd, Chu Kong Passenger Transport Company Ltd and New World First Ferry Services Ltd each deployed a high-speed ferry to take part in the drill.



## Annual Meeting between Marine Department and Recognised Organisations



THE Marine Department has underlined the importance of seven classification societies known as Recognised Organisations (ROs) and their roles as an RO to the success of the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

As ROs, they carry out statutory duties of a flag administration such as the survey and certification of Hong Kong-registered ships. Without them, the register cannot be operated efficiently and cost effectively.

The ROs recognised by Hong Kong include the American Bureau of Shipping, Bureau Veritas, China Classification Society, Det Norske Veritas, Germanischer Lloyd, Lloyd's Register of Shipping and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai.

The Marine Department held its annual meeting with representatives of ROs on October 16, 2000. The meeting was followed by a social gathering. It provided an opportunity to surveyors on both sides to discuss operational difficulties and problems in a relaxing atmosphere.

At the meeting, five main issues were discussed. They included the annual performance report of ROs, the acceptance of old tonnages not classed with the ROs and the implementation of ISM Code on Hong Kong registered ships. The meeting also discussed the draft new agreement for the next five years and the request for the notification of ROs when port state control officers required their assistance to clear deficiencies.



Charting the course ... Mr Varghese (seated second from left) with officials of the Tokyo MOU Secretariat, (seated from left) technical officer Ning Zheng, Secretary Yoshio Sasamura and Deputy Secretary Mitsutoyo.

## Varghese elected chairman of Asia-Pacific maritime committee

A POWERFUL Asia-Pacific maritime committee has named Mr KM Varghese, Assistant Director/Shipping of the Marine Department as its chairman.

Mr Varghese will serve as chairman of the Port State Control (PSC) Committee of the Asia-Pacific Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MOU) for the next two years. He succeeds Mr Trevor Rose of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

The PSC Committee meeting, held from November 13-15 in Nadi, Fiji, was attended by Mr Varghese, Mr KF Chick, Principal Surveyor of Ships and Mr M Y Chan, Senior Surveyor of Ships, reflecting the strong representation of Hong Kong in the work of the Tokyo MOU.

The three Hong Kong officials also attended the Database Manager Meeting held on November 10 and a Working Group meeting on amendments to the Memorandum on November 11.

The Database Manager Meeting was held to discuss operational matters and improvement measures to the Asia-Pacific Computer Information System.

In another development, Mr Varghese automatically became leader of the Standing Working Group because he was the leader of the Advisory Group on Information Exchange. And he was also elected chairman of the PSCC09 meeting and for the next two meetings.

Mr Chick was elected leader of an inter-sessional working group that was established to review Chapter 7 of the PSC Manual while Mr Chan continued to lead the Advisory Group on Technical Corporation.

Hong Kong intends to receive trainees of other members under a fellowship scheme.

Established in 1993, the 17-member Tokyo MOU coordinates the PSC activities in the Asia-Pacific region. It has set an overall target of inspecting 75% of ships visiting the region.

## Vessel Traffic Services system gets HK\$158m upgrade

THE Marine Department has awarded a HK\$158 million contract to replace and upgrade the existing Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) system, reflecting its commitment to enhancing navigation safety and traffic efficiency.

The new system would be able to track 5,000 targets, enhancing present capabilities by over 12 times, said Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu at a contract signing ceremony.

"When the project is completed in 2001, the VTS system will be equipped with the most advanced surveillance and communication equipment in line with the latest International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirements," he said.

The tender was awarded to the Holland Institute of Traffic Technology (HITT), with Pacific Century CyberWorks-HKT (PCCW-HKT) as its sub-contractor.

The new VTS system will also incorporate enhanced features such as an automatic vessel identification system and a closed circuit television system.

"These two new surveillance sensors together with a network of 10 upgraded radars and communication system will greatly improve the tracking and identification capability of marine traffic," Mr Tsui said.

The upgraded system will also serve as an information-sharing centre to enable the public to obtain ship information in Hong Kong waters around-the-clock.

The Marine Department has established a VTS training section to design and develop its training programmes, supported by an integrated VTS simulator.

The contract was signed by Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services Leung Cham-tim, and Managing Director of HITT Luuth Sander van der Scheer, and was witnessed by Mr Tsui and Director of Corporate Sales of PCCW-HKT Tommy Chung.

## More vessel operators giving pre-arrival notification

ALTHOUGH legislation has not been put into place yet, vessel operators complying with a voluntary pre-arrival notification scheme is on the rise.

The number of vessels complying with this administrative instruction, which will become mandatory after legislative amendments are in place in the middle of 2001, has increased from 72% in April to 92% in November.

The scheme will enable the Marine Department to monitor vessels in the waters of Hong Kong, and enhance the standards on the proactive marine traffic management.

The Harbour Patrol Section arranged a series of briefing sessions and individual talks in November and December with local agents to enhance communications and further promote this scheme on a voluntary basis.

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