

# HONG KONG MARITIME NEWS

香港海事通訊



## CE joins celebrations to mark 10m GRT



▶ HKSAR Chief Executive Mr Tung Chee-hwa and other officiating guests, accompanied by Director of Marine, Mr Tsui Shung-yiu (second from left), proposing a toast after unveiling the commemorative wheel.



▶ Proud achievements: (left and below) Mr Tung (right) presents "The Company with the Most GRT on the Hong Kong Shipping Register Award" to Mr Jin Zhongming, Senior and Executive Vice-President of CO-SCO (HK) Group Ltd while Secretary for Economic Services Ms Sandra Lee presents "The Company that Flagged in the Most GRT on the Hong Kong Shipping Register during the Year 2000 Award" to Mr Edward Cheng, Vice-chairman of Unique Shipping Co Ltd.



▶ For the record: Sir Gordon Wu (right) presents "The Ship that Crossed the 10 Million GRT mark of the Hong Kong Shipping Register Award" to Mr Sham Chellaram, Director of KC Maritime Ltd, owner of M.V. "Darya Tara".

The Marine Department's annual cocktail reception on January 5 this year had a special reason to celebrate – the Hong Kong Shipping Register had smashed through 10 million GRT. Watched by 300 members of the shipping community, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa unveiled a commemorative wheel to mark the occasion.

Director of Marine, Mr Tsui Shung-yiu, said the 10 million GRT target was achieved through the joint efforts of the Government and the industry.

He said there were still a large number of ships owned or controlled by local shipowners flying non-Hong Kong flags.

"They are, of course, free to do so as there are no constraints, whether legal, political or otherwise, on the owners in the choice of flag," he added.

The Director urged local shipowners to seriously consider bring-

ing their ships home as the SAR Government was committed to shipping affairs and cared for the shipping industry.

The Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr Andrew Chen, attributed the register's success to the transparency and responsiveness of the Government in working with the industry.

New measures and initiatives introduced by the Government in April 1999, including the innovative survey arrangements under the Flag State Quality Control System.

The shipping register has a port state control detention rate well below the international average, and its standard is comparable to the best registers in the world.

The Hong Kong Shipping Register has continued to surge ahead. As of March 3, it has on record a total 586 ships of 11.11 million gross registered tonnes (GRT), an 11.11% increase compared with the 10 million GRT breakthrough that was achieved on 18 October 2000.

# Chinese delegation exchanges views on legislation



A delegation from the Maritime Safety Administration of the Ministry of Communications visited the Marine Department from January 17-18, 2001 and exchanged views on the formulation and administration of maritime laws and other related maritime operations.

The five-man delegation was headed by Deputy Director General of the Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration, Mr Li Guoxiang. Other delegation members included Mr Miao Jun and Mr Wang Zhenzhou of Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration, Mr He Yunpeng of Maritime Safety Administration and Mr Chen Wenxiao of Fujian Maritime Safety Administration.

The delegation was welcomed by the Director of Marine, Tsui Shung-yiu, on the morning of the first day and was briefed by the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Tsang Man-ching, on the Marine Department's organisational structure and areas of work. This was followed by discussions on the legislation proce-

dures of the Hong Kong maritime laws and environmental protection in the port of Hong Kong.

In the afternoon, the discussion concentrated on the implementation of the maritime laws including port state control, Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 1978), flag state implementa-

tion and the International Safety Management (ISM).

On the second day, the delegation visited the Maritime Emergency and Rescue Co-ordination Centre, Vessel Traffic Centre and Kwai Chung Marine Traffic Control Station where they were briefed on their operations.

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Mr Tsui Shung-yiu (left) presents a plaque to Mr Li Guoxiang, Deputy Director-General of the Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration.



Mr Tsui and Mr Li with other members of the MSA delegation.

## Safe navigation seminar proves popular



In a pro-active move to promote safe navigation in poor visibility conditions in Hong Kong waters, a seminar was organised again for masters and persons-in-charge of vessels in January.

Some 140 participants attended the seminar, which included topics such as headrooms for bridges and the speed limits in the harbour.

"The response to the seminar was overwhelming," said Mr Edwin Fung, Marine Officer, Harbour Patrol Section.

Tips given at the seminar included keeping a proper lookout by sight, hear-

ing and all available means including radar, maintaining a safe speed to enable vessels to take proper and effective action to avoid collision and keeping a safe distance from passing vessels.

Suggested appropriate actions that can be taken to avoid collision included being positive, making decisions in ample time, making conspicuous alteration of course and speed and avoiding close quarters situation.

In bad weather conditions such as fog, heavy rain and restricted visibility, persons-in-charge of vessels should exercise extreme caution, use and listen

to sound signals and to use radar. Participants were reminded that the Speed Restriction Exemption Permit issued by the Marine Department will be void when visibility is below one nautical mile.

When visibility in Hong Kong waters is less than two nautical miles, the Vessel Traffic Centre (call-sign "MARDEP") broadcasts hourly visibility reports on V.H.F. channels 12, 14 and 67 until visibility is improved.

In the event of an accident, reports should be made immediately to the Vessel Traffic Centre, either on V.H.F. (channel 12,14,67) or by telephone (No. 2858-2107 or 2858-2163).

# Mainland seamen saved from sinking vessel



Twenty-seven mainland seamen were rescued on December 28, 2000 within 40 minutes of abandoning their sinking vessel, thanks to the fast action of the Marine Department's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

The seafarers, who abandoned the COSCO-operated 2,731-tonne timber log carrier "Jia Ding Guan" in the South China Sea at 4.30 pm, were brought to safety at 5.10 pm. The rescue, carried out by Liberian container ship "Dolphin Hope", was in response to MRCC's call.

After the ship's agent in Dalian reported the plight of the "Jia Ding Guan" to the MRCC at 3 pm, the Government Flying Service deployed a fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters to search for the vessel in distress amidst a force six northeasterly wind and very rough sea.

In recognition for the assistance offered by "Dolphin Hope" in the operation, Marine Department's General Manager (Operations) Mr Ng Kin-man presented a commemorative plaque to its master, Captain Felipe Oyson, on board his vessel on December 29, 2000.

Mr Ng thanked the crew of the "Dolphin Hope" for their prompt response and efforts in the operation that demonstrated their professionalism and empathy towards their fellow seafarers.



► *Life savers: Marine Department's General Manager Mr Ng Kin Man (left) presents a commemorative plaque to Captain Felipe Oyson, master of container ship, Dolpin Hope, and his crew.*



# Japanese rescued after 17-hour search



A solo Japanese captain, whose pleasure yacht got into difficulties while sailing from Japan to Luzon in the Philippines on January 17, 2001, was rescued after an arduous 17-hour search.

The Japanese put out a distress call at 3.51 pm on that day to the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) and a search operation for the 21-footer Japanese yacht Yume Maru was launched immediately.

Despite sending lookout alerts to merchant ships and despatching a Government Flying Services fixed wing aircraft R39, and a second aircraft

from the Honolulu-based Pacific Rescue Coordination Centre at the request of MRCC the next day, the yacht eluded the search units.

Luckily the Japanese captain managed to contact MRCC at 9.37 am on January 18, 2001 with his location particulars. After the information was relayed to aircraft R39, the vessel was located at 10 am.

R39 dropped a dingy for the Japanese and the MV Princess Highway rescued the sailor at 12.56 pm under the directions of MRCC, 354 miles from Waglan Island.

# FSQC seminar gets good response



Shipowners and managers of 44 companies were briefed about the dos and don'ts of the Flag State Quality Control (FSQC) System at seminars organised by the Shipping Division on January 12 and March 2, 2001.

Officials from the Shipping Division shared their experiences with the FSQC system that has been in operation for over 20 months with the seminar participants.

"Not only does the FSQC System provide an innovative method to operate a shipping register, it also has radically changed the Department's culture in the way it provides services to the public using the business approach," said Mr KF Chick, Principal Surveyor of Ships of the Marine Department.

The seminar dealt with important points that shipowners, man-

agers and masters had to note when a ship visits ports where port state control inspections are carried out in a strict manner, shipowners/managers' rights under a port state control inspection and ways to deal with unreasonable port state control inspectors.



Other areas covered included the role of recognised organisations and the flag administrations in port state control inspections, the documentation requirements of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, the method to avoid ISM deficiencies in port state control inspections and common problems identified during FSQC inspections and ways to avoid them.

After the seminars, drinks were served to provide a sociable environment for shipowners/managers to exchange ideas and discuss issues that they might have with Shipping Division staff.

◀ *All ears: shipowners and managers from 44 companies learn about the Flag State Quality Control system.*

# Bill to boost HK Shipping Register



The Chief Executive-in-Council has endorsed a Bill to improve the Hong Kong shipping register's ship registration procedures, Marine Department Assistant Director (Multilateral Policy Division) Raymond Tang said.

He said the Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Amendment) Bill 2001 and a regulation, which were gazetted on February 23, 2001, aim to make the register more user-friendly and attractive to the shipowners. The Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on March 14, 2001.

"Instead of having to produce the original title document for ship registration, a shipowner can submit a faxed copy of the document under the proposed changes," Mr Tang said.

As most of the sale/purchase deals for ships to be registered in Hong Kong occurred overseas, the requirement to produce original title document before a ship can be registered under the current legislation frequently led to undue delays in registration, with consequent loss and

inconvenience to the shipowner, Mr Tang said. He made it clear that, "we will make sure that the registration system has water tight security and is above board while making it user friendly."

The Marine Department will continue to maintain the high quality of the register and ensure all safeguards are in place to prevent commercial fraud.

In addition to producing a copy of the original document, the Bill requires the ship mortgagee's confirmation that he has seen the original title document and is aware that a copy would be used for registration, Mr Tang said.



Also, the period of provisional registration will be shortened from three months to one month. Full registration will require production of original title document.

The tonnage charge for provisional registration will correspondingly be reduced from 1/4 to 1/12 of the annual tonnage charge under the Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2001.

Mr Tang said the Government had introduced a number of improvement measures to enhance the attractiveness of the Hong Kong shipping register since April 1999.

The shipping register reached the target of 10 million gross tonnes in October, 2000, 18 months ahead of the target date and stands at 11.11 million gross tonnage as of 3 March 2001.

◀ *The logo of the Hong Kong Shipping Register*

# Marine safety issues top meeting agenda

▼ *Warm ties: Director of Marine, Mr Tsui Shung-yiu (left) presents a plaque to Captain Liu Gong-chen, Executive Director-General of the Maritime Safety Administration.*



MARINE safety figured prominently at a recent meeting between the Hong Kong Marine Department and the Maritime Safety Administration of the Ministry of Communications. The meeting, held on January 4, 2001 in Hong Kong, discussed issues related to ships operating at the Shenzhen anchorage, safety standard of coastal vessels, investigation of marine accidents, co-operation on search-and-rescue, and the exchange of vessel traffic service (VTS) information.

The two sides agreed on the need for greater co-operation in these areas. As an example, the mainland Chinese side informed the Hong Kong officials that they had found four wrecked ships in the Tam Kon fairway off southern Hong Kong. These wrecks are now indicated on the nautical charts of Hong Kong and the information should prove very useful



to vessels passing through Hong Kong waters.

The Hong Kong Marine Department also received agreement that, with the return of sovereignty to China, ships operating off the Pearl River coast should not be deemed to be operating in international waters. Both sides agreed to work on a

common standard to regulate these vessels.

It was also agreed that the exchange of personnel was very effective in promoting understanding between the two departments, and the practice would continue this year.

The meeting was conducted in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The mainland officials also visited the Kwai Chung Marine Traffic Control Station and the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal, and joined the shipping community in celebrating the breakthrough of 10 million GRT of the Hong Kong Shipping Register as well as the annual reception of the Marine Department.

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◀ *Fruitful visit: members of the Maritime Safety Administration visiting the Marine Department's Kwai Chung Marine Traffic Control Station.*

## Marine Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government

Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Hong Kong

G.P.O. Box 4155

Enquiries: (852) 2542-3711 Fax: (852) 2541-7194, 2544-9241

Web site: [www.info.gov.hk/mardep](http://www.info.gov.hk/mardep)

Email: [webmaster@mardep.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:webmaster@mardep.gcn.gov.hk)

**Hong Kong Maritime News Editorial Board**

Tel: (852) 2852-4423 Fax: 2543-8531

Email: [ipro@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:ipro@mardep.gov.hk)

Subscription: (852) 2852-4397

