

Navigate with extreme caution, safe speed near marine works

The Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, reminded owners of vessels and personnel on board to exercise great caution in the vicinity of all the existing and future marine works in the waters of Hong Kong and the Pearl River estuary.

This year's Navigational Safety Seminar was held on February 3, 2010 at the Hong Kong Space Museum. Addressing the seminar, Mr Tupper highlighted two major marine works of special note in the upcoming years.

He said, "The reclamation of the Central – Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link will commence work early this year and continue for some six years. Construction of the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge, including reclamation to the east of the airport for the boundary crossing facilities has started and will continue for some five years."


He pointed out that owners of vessels and personnel aboard should

navigate with extreme caution and safe speed in the vicinity of Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and in the western waters of Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta.

The Marine Department will publish Marine Department Notices to promulgate the various stages of these works with navigational safety advice. In addition the Marine Department will continue to enhance close cooperation with the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration to convey safety information for local shipping in the Pearl River Delta area.

During the fog season, Mr Tupper also reminded adequate safety precautions and contingency measures should be in place for every intended voyage.

He said, "In these days of climate change, we should not be surprised when mists or fogs appear out of the normal season such as those occurred last Christmas Day resulting in three

collisions involving high-speed ferries and slower craft. These cases emphasised the need to make significant speed reductions when visibility falls below 1,000 metres and to double up the lookout even when proceeding at slow speed." 



Marine Officer, Mr K Lam, presenting to participants points to note when vessels are navigating in restricted visibility.

More eBS services in the pipeline

The Marine Department (MD)'s Electronic Business System (eBS) will be further expanded by the introduction of two new services, said the Senior Marine Officer/IT Management Section, Mr Michael Chau.

The two new services that will be introduced in 2010 are the interface with the Seafarers' Examination and Certification System (SECS) for the submission of applications for the Hong Kong Licence, and the electronic submission of applications for the dispensation regarding Cargo Ships Safety.

"Although the submission of appli-



The Deputy Director of Marine Department, Mr Francis Liu (second right), receiving the award from Dr Herman Tsui of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. (From left) Looking on are Information Technology Manager, Mr Joseph Yap, and Senior Marine Officer, Mr Michael Chau.

cations for the Hong Kong Licence is not part of the port formalities, it had been included in the eBS as a new service to help enhance the MD's e-services platform for the shipping industry," noted Mr Chau, who heads the MD's IT Management Section comprising 23 staffers.

He added that this new service would help process between 10,000 and 15,000 applications each year. An applicant can conveniently pay the application fee of HK\$400 via the online autopay system.

Regarding the applications for

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IMO member State audit for HKSAR

A recent audit conducted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) initially revealed that the maritime administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has mainly been very effective in discharging its obligations under the relevant IMO instruments.

To promote maritime safety and protection of the marine environment, the IMO initiated the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme in 2006. The scheme lets third party auditors conduct comprehensive and objective assessments on how effectively member States discharge their responsibilities and obligations as flag, coastal and port States under various mandatory IMO instruments.

So far, 37 member States and one dependent territory have been audited. The audit for China was completed in November 2009.

In all, 51 member States have volunteered for the audit. On June 10, 2009, the Marine Department of the HKSAR formally accepted the audit arrangement for the HKSAR.

The audit for the HKSAR was carried out by three IMO appointed auditors from Australia, India and the Republic of Korea. The scope of the audit covered high-level and operational elements on how the HKSAR administers its maritime responsibilities in respect of safety and environmental protection requirements.

The audit started on March 8, 2010



MD high ranking staff meeting with the auditors appointed by the IMO.

and concluded on March 15, 2010. Early indications show that HKSAR has substantially met its obligation and effectively implemented the mandatory IMO instruments. The audit also identified a number of areas of good practice, which are innovative and of considerable assistance to the administration and maritime community as a whole. ☸

16 people commended for saving lives at sea

On March 24, 2010, the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, presented commendations to 16 people who risked their lives to rescue others in Hong Kong waters last year.

Receiving the commendations were nine police officers, three staff members of the Hong Kong Pilots Association Ltd and four civilians.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Mr Tupper thanked all awardees for their selfless and public-spirited acts.

He said, "We cannot avoid all accidents placing people in peril in the water and without the brave and public-spirited people like our heroes here today, some lives would have been lost and families bereaved last year.

"On behalf of the Marine Department, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our heroes."

In his speech Mr Tupper stressed the Port of Hong Kong had always been a key factor in the economic development and prosperity of Hong Kong.

He said, "Being the administrator of the port, the Marine Department is

responsible for all maritime matters in Hong Kong and the safety standards of all classes and types of vessels. A key commitment is to ensure safe operation of the port so that every ship that comes to our port can carry out its business smoothly and efficiently."

In this regard, a navigation safety

seminar was held in February to promote the marine safety messages to the port users, emphasising the safety advice they should heed when navigating under restricted visibility.

Besides, the Marine Department's commitment is also extended to the safety of recreational boating which has experienced a surge of popularity in recent years. This year, the Marine Department will continue to partner with the Marine Police and the Leisure

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After presenting the commendations, the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper (third right, second row), has a group picture with the 16 recipients.

Awards presented to shipping companies during annual joint luncheon

The Marine Department and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association jointly hosted a luncheon and awards ceremony on March 19, 2010 to congratulate companies for winning the Best Performance in Port State Control Inspection Award, the green awards and the Bravery Awards respectively.

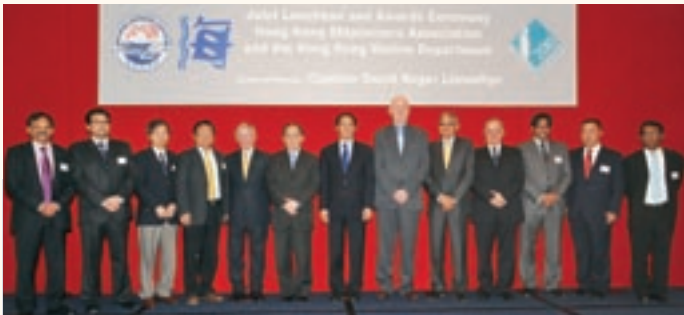
The Best Performance in Port State Control Inspection Award shows the Marine Department's appreciation to companies whose Hong Kong-registered vessels have

contributed to the Flag State so as to live up to its reputation. Five ship management companies performing well in the Port State Control Inspection regimes carried off the awards which were established three years ago. These five companies were Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited, COSCO (HK) Shipping Co Ltd, Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited, Fleet Management Limited and Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.

In recognition of the extra efforts made by shipowners and ship managers in protecting the environment, the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) in conjunction with members from the industry has set up an assessment panel for three awards for green achievement, namely the Green Innovative Award, the Green Culture Award and the Green Awareness Award. The HKSR invited submissions from shipping companies whose fleets comprise of Hong Kong-registered vessels. Those submissions that could demonstrate, apart from those international requirements, tangible overall reductions in harmful substances into the air and sea during operations of these Hong Kong-flagged vessels were presented with the awards. The winners were Maersk Shipping Hong Kong Limited (the Green Innovative Award), Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd (the Green Culture Award), Fleet Management Limited and Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited (the Green Awareness Award).

There were two incidents occurred in 2009 in which crews of Hong Kong-flagged ships rescued seafarers in distress in high seas. The Bravery Awards were presented to these ships in recognition of the crew members' courage and bravery. In the first incident, MV "Hebei Courage" of the North China Shipping Holding Co Ltd while sailing in the South China Sea found five Filipino fishermen whose fishing vessel foundered for 15 days in the wake of a typhoon. In the second incident, the master and the crew of MT "Pacific Condor", managed by Fleet Management Limited, rescued 21 crew members from MV "Sea Star" abandoned by its owner in the Red Sea.

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Award winners and guests pose for a group photo.



The Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper (right), presents the Bravery Award to the Master and Crew of the MT Pacific Condor managed by Fleet Management Ltd.



Mr Tupper (right) presents the Bravery Award to the Master and Crew of the MV Hebei Courage which belongs to North China Shipping Holdings Co Ltd.



Mr Tupper (right) presents the Green Awareness Award to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd.



Mr Tupper (right) presents the Green Culture Award to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.



Mr Tupper (right) presents the Green Awareness Award to Fleet Management Ltd.



Mr Tupper (right) presents the Green Innovative Award to Maersk Shipping Hong Kong Ltd.

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Awards presented to shipping companies during annual joint luncheon



The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Francis Ho (right), presents the Phoenix Management Award to COSCO (HK) Shipping Co Ltd.



The Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr Kenneth Koo (right), presents the Jin Chan Management Award to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.



Mr Ho (right) presents the Dragon Management Award to Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd.



Mr Koo (right) presents the Pi Xiu Management Award to Fleet Management Ltd.



Mr Koo (right) presents the Unicorn Management Award to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd.

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More eBS services in the pipeline

the dispensation, Hong Kong registered ocean-going vessels can obtain the required permission from the MD via the eBS at the soonest possible in case they sail with deficiencies. The eBS will provide an online platform for the applications around the clock and facilitate the MD to process the applications and provide assistance immediately. In addition, the applicants may enquire their application status through the eBS.

Two more new services will also be introduced around late 2010.

Mr Chau said, “The third new initiative of the eBS will enable all shipping companies to submit online applications for permits for the removal and carriage of dangerous goods such as explosives and radioactive materials.

“The fourth initiative involves the collection of the annual tonnage fees for the Hong Kong Shipping Registry through online autopay system so as to save the time of the ship owners.”


Last year, the eBS won the Best Public Service Application (Transformation) Bronze Award of the Hong Kong Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Awards 2009. The judging panel considered the system user-friendly and comprehensive, and a key driver for the success of the shipping industry doing business in Hong Kong. 

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16 people commended for saving lives at sea

and Cultural Services Department to launch the “Safety Afloat 2010” campaign. A seminar and other publicity activities will be arranged in the coming months.

In the port environment, Mr Tupper said the Harbour Patrol Section together with the Marine Police would step up the law enforcement efforts to deter speeding and other reckless boating behaviour. Moreover, the number of patrols would be enhanced in the vicinity of the speed restriction zones and the water areas surrounding popular gazetted beaches and water sports sites.

“We trust these measures will enhance marine safety and Hong Kong will continue to be one of the safest and most efficient ports in the world and provide a safe environment for marine leisure activities,” Mr Tupper noted. 

Meeting held in HK to discuss electronic navigational chart

The Marine Department (MD) hosted the 4th East Asia Hydrographic Commission Electronic Navigational Chart (EAHC ENC) Task Group Meeting in the MD Training Centre between March 17 and 19, 2010.

In his welcoming speech, the

Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, noted the importance of the meeting in which 19 representatives from eight countries in the East Asian region gathered in Hong Kong with the common goal of enhancing navigational safety by providing the best hydro-

graphic and charting services to the maritime industry. Mr Tupper also welcomed the Malaysian representative, who participated in the meeting through the Internet.

Mr Tupper stressed that the International Maritime Organization had approved amendments to require all large passenger ships, tankers and cargo ships to fit the Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) on a rolling timetable, which would begin in July 2012. Responsible marine authorities should have the obligation to supply accurate and up-to-date official ENCs to the users and thus have a tight time schedule to meet.

The task group had been assigned by the EAHC to resolve the overlapping of ENCs covering the region and to address the data consistency of the ENCs produced. All EAHC member states have cooperated closely and jointly produced ENCs covering the South China Sea.



Representatives from eight countries and the HKSAR gathering for the 4th EAHC ENC Task Group Meeting.

Extensive view exchanges at MD, Macao MA meeting

At a meeting between the Marine Department (MD) and the Macao Maritime Administration (Macao MA) held in Hong Kong on March 10, 2010, there were fruitful exchanges of views on issues ranging from sea passenger transport services to marine accidents.

On the management of high-

speed ferry vessels, the MD gave a briefing on the functions and operational experience of the High-Speed Craft Consultative Committee. Issues concerning sea passenger transport services including matters relating to routes, ports of call, and vessels and crews were also discussed.

Regarding the investigations of and

emergency responses to marine accidents, the two sides followed up on the preparations for the 2010 Joint Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. Other highlights included the reporting of irregularities relating to high-speed passenger craft, and the co-operation between the two sides on marine accident investigations.



Delegations from Hong Kong and Macao pictured after the meeting.

2010: Year of the Seafarer donations for Port Welfare Committee



Donations amounting to some \$800,000 in total have been made to the Port Welfare Committee in 2009-10 to support the cause of the committee and in commemoration of 2010: Year of the Seafarer.

To mark this occasion, a cheque presentation ceremony cum drinks reception of the Port Welfare Committee was held on April 16, 2010 at the Mariners' Club, Tsim Sha Tsui.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the Port Welfare Committee, Mr Kenneth Koo, underlined the importance of port welfare to the maritime industry and seafarers who make globalisation a reality. In 2008,

ships carried a total of 7.7 billion tonnes of cargo around the world.

"Port welfare is a still largely anonymous behind-the-scenes effort that contributes greatly to Hong Kong's popularity as a world-class port," Mr Koo said.


"But for our seafarers, the people on the 'frontlines' and 'trenches' who make 'maritime' work, the care they receive from the chaplains of many different nationalities based in Hong Kong and other facilities enable them to at least call Hong Kong a 'home away from home'."

Mr Koo noted that Hong Kong as a shipping centre welcomed weary sea-

farers from all points of the world as they toiled to transport billions of tonnes of seaborne cargo around the world.

He thanked donors for their continued donations to the Port Welfare Committee and contributing greatly to Hong Kong's port welfare endeavours.

The United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO) has designated 2010 as the Year of the Seafarer, giving the IMO and the international maritime community the opportunity to pay tribute to the world's seafarers for their unique contributions to society and in recognition of the risks they shoulder in the execution of their duties in an often hostile environment.

With secretariat support provided by the Marine Department, the Port Welfare Committee ensures that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities. This is achieved by providing financial support to the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen, and the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong. 



In support of the cause of the committee and in commemoration of 2010: Year of the Seafarer, a representative of the K H Koo Charitable Foundation (left) presents a cheque of \$250,000 to the Chairman of the Port Welfare Committee, Mr Kenneth Koo.



A representative of the Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Co (HK) Ltd (left) presents a cheque of \$250,000 to Mr Kenneth Koo.

Visits



A delegation from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore being briefed on the operation of the port of Hong Kong.



The Director of the China Satellite Maritime Tracking and Control Department, Mr Ding Xingnong (second left), visits the Marine Department and meets with the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu (second right).



The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu (left), and a delegation from the Ministry of Transport exchanging views on services that they provide.



General Manager/Shipping Registry & Seafarers, Mr K F Chick (right), introducing the work of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry to a delegation from the Bank of Communications.



Aboard the launch Tin Hau, members of the International Union of Marine Insurance watching a DVD on Marine Department's work.

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