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HKSAR GOVERNMENT

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Follow safe practices for recreational boating

Recreational boating activities should only take place with a qualified coxswain and engineer on board, the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, reminded an audience at the sixth Safety Afloat Educational Seminar held on May 23, 2011.

Speaking at the annual seminar jointly organised by the Marine Department, Hong Kong Police Force and Leisure and Cultural Services Department to enhance public awareness of water sports safety, Mr Tupper also noted that at least some experienced crew should be on board so as to ensure the safe practices were followed when swimming or diving off the boat.

Statistics showed that 11 people died in water sports accidents last year, which was a significant drop from the 19 deaths in 2009. Nonetheless, Mr Tupper stressed that we still need to step up efforts to further reduce casualties.

Investigations into the causes of accidents have revealed that most deaths and injuries are attributable to the failure to take heed of weather conditions or warnings, swimming alone, swimming in non-designated areas, and diving or snorkelling alone or at night.

Mr Tupper said, "It is of fundamental importance that boat-trip organisers familiarise themselves with all the safety precautions and contingency measures on board and apply them whether underway, anchored or stopped at sea.

"For sporting activities like canoeing, diving, skiing, swimming and windsurfing, novice participants should satisfy themselves that there are sufficient instructors or experienced sportspeople in the groups to ensure safety."

Additionally, it is highly inadvisable to go swimming, diving, canoeing, or windsurfing alone as the potential dangers of wind, wave, swell, current and heavy rain are magnified when there is nobody watching or there is no assistance close at hand.

To assist the public to better appreciate marine safety, the Marine Department, Marine Police, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department have jointly launched a series of educational seminars and publicity campaigns.

An interdepartmental sea safety

pamphlet has also been revamped to provide additional safety-related information, and more details on how to contact relevant departments should assistance be required.

On the front line, the combined fleets of the Marine Department and Marine Police continue to step up patrols in the vicinity of speed-restricted zones and areas adjacent to popular gazetted beaches and water sports sites. A series of anti-speeding operations has also been launched to curb illegal or reckless boating activities. Lifeguards from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would also watch out for any dangerous boating activities close to the gazetted beaches and alert patrol officers from the Marine Department and Marine Police to take enforcement action against offenders when necessary. ⚓



The vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Underwater Association, Mr Alfred Au, elaborating on diving safety.

Promote Hong Kong as international maritime centre

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng, led a ship-ping delegation to South Korea in late May this year to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre and a premier hub port.

The delegation comprised members of the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council (MIC) and Hong Kong Port Development Council (PDC), industry leaders and the legislative councillor representing the transport constituency, Ms Miriam Lau.

In Seoul, Ms Cheng called on Korea's Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, as well as four leading Korean shipping companies, SK Shipping, STX Pan Ocean, Hyundai Merchant Marine and Hanjin Shipping, which together owned or

operated about 800 container vessels, bulk carriers and tankers.

On May 31, 2011, the delegation attended a seminar entitled "Maritime Hong Kong - Experts with Worldwide Connections", promoting Hong Kong's strengths in different areas of the maritime industry. The seminar was organised by the MIC and PDC and co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

At an industry luncheon after the seminar, Ms Cheng delivered a keynote speech stressing on the close relationship between the Hong Kong and Korean maritime sectors that had been developing throughout the years. She remarked that it was high time

for the maritime sectors of the two sides to expand partnerships to a new dimension.

"As a world-class services hub, Hong Kong's full range of first-rate professionals has been serving the needs of maritime industry players and their overseas counterparts for decades. Hong Kong has the legal framework and professional network for arbitrations to be conducted in accordance with international standards. I hope that my delegates and I have successfully taken the opportunity to introduce to you the wide range of quality maritime services in Hong Kong that are at your service and why you should partner with us."

Moreover, Ms Cheng highlighted the Hong Kong Shipping Register as having an impressive gross tonnage as well as an excellent reputation as a register maintaining a high quality.

"To help reduce the operating cost of ships flying the Hong Kong flag, the income derived from the international operation of Hong Kong-registered ships is exempted from the profits tax."

Other opportunities for the delegation to network with key players in the Korean maritime and port sectors included visits to the Korean Maritime Institute, Korean Shipbuilders' Association, Korea Maritime University and Busan Port, Korea's busiest container port.



The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng (right), meeting with the Korea's Deputy Minister for Transport, Logistics and Maritime Affairs, Mr Joo Sung-ho (left).

HK qualified for Qualship 21 status

The quality of ships flying the Hong Kong flag has been further confirmed as Hong Kong was among the six flag administrations added this year to the Qualship 21 programme.

Qualship 21, which stands for "Quality Shipping for the 21st Century", is an initiative implemented by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in 2001. The programme aims to eliminate the operation of substandard ships by providing incentives to owners who maintain

quality operations.

Ships in the Qualship 21 programme are subject to fewer port State control (PSC) inspections by the USCG whilst in the US waters.

A flag State is qualified for the Qualship 21 status when its ships have attained a USCG PSC three years' rolling average detention ratio of less than 1.0%, with at least 10 distinct arrivals in each of the past three years.



New addition to HK Shipping Register

As the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR) continues to attract quality ships in 2011, the total gross tonnage of Hong Kong-registered ships has now reached 61 million gross tonnes (GT) and the register is among the top four in the world.

The joining of mt Seafrontier on May 12, 2011 marked the crossing of the 60 million gross tonnes of the HKSR. The naming and delivery ceremony of mt Seafrontier took place in Guangzhou on May 12, 2011.

Among guests and officials attending the ceremony were the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu, and the Deputy Secretary of Transport and Housing



A group photo at the naming and delivery ceremony of mt Seafrontier.

(Transport), Ms Doris Cheung.

mt Seafrontier, owned by Dorchester Associates Inc, a member of the Valles Group, was built by Guangzhou Shipyard International Company Ltd.

The vessel is a chemical tanker of 30,241 GT and 176.96 metres in length. It is the first MR tanker in the Valles fleet.



HK preparing to implement MLC

In February 2006, the 94th International Labour Conference adopted the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC in short), a coherent instrument embodying as far as possible all up-to-date standards of existing international maritime labour Conventions and Recommendations, setting out seafarers' rights to a decent work condition. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has anticipated that the MLC would be ratified by at least 30 Members of the ILO by year end, and ready to come into force in 2012.

While the world maritime administrations are to implement the MLC, the Marine Department (MD) continues working closely with the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Department of Justice in drafting the necessary local legislation.

To ensure smooth implementation of the MLC, MD's surveyors have attended related training courses including a course run by the ILO's International Training Centre in Italy.

In addition, the MD also conducted a mock MLC flag State inspection on board a Hong Kong-registered ocean-going vessel on April 8, 2011, aiming at gaining practical inspection and enforcement experience. With the China



A group photo of the 12th Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies Forum held in South Korea.

Maritime Safety Administration, a joint inspection of a similar nature will also be organised.

Moreover, a Hong Kong delegation led by the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, participated in the 12th Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies Forum held in Jeju, South Korea from June 1 to June 4, 2011, so as to strengthen regional co-operation on areas regarding maritime safety, environmental protection as well as the MLC. At the forum that drew maritime authorities' attention to speeding up their progress in ratifying the MLC, the delegation presented a paper titled "Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 – its implementation in HKSAR" which gave a brief account of Hong Kong's related maritime history since 1903, the SAR's participation in the 94th International Labour Conference, the drafting of local legislation as well as the mock MLC flag State inspection by the MD.



A Marine Department officer conducting a mock MLC flag State inspection.

HK, Macao authorities on maritime safety matters

The Marine Department (MD) and the Macao Maritime Administration (MMA) held a meeting on May 26, 2011, in Macao to discuss various topics of common concern, especially on navigational safety during the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

The meeting also further bolstered communication between the MD and the MMA, ensuring the continuous smooth operation of cross-boundary ferry services between the two special administrative regions.

The MD delegation, led by the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, comprised five other delegates including the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu. Headed by its Director, Ms Wong Soi-man, the MMA counterparts had 10 members

including the Deputy Director, Mr Vong Kam-fai.

On top of the above topics, the meeting also shared views and experience of upgrading the Vessel Traffic Services system underway in Hong Kong and Macao, the future

development of cross-boundary ferry services between the temporary ferry terminal in Taipa, Macao and Skypier, Hong Kong, and the 2011 Joint Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise co-ordinated by the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration in October or November this year.

At the meeting, the MD and the MMA also agreed that a liaison group on operational issues be formed to further enhance communication. ⚓



Mainland, HK closely operate in hydrographic matters

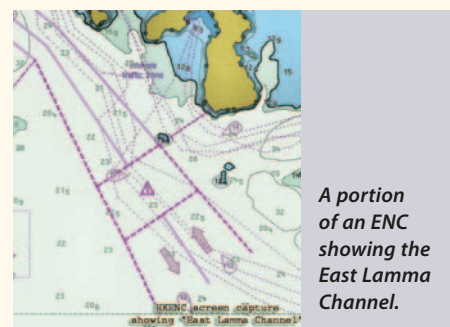
The China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) and the Hong Kong Marine Department held a meeting in Guangzhou on June 21 to 22, 2011 to further strengthen their close co-operation in hydrographic matters.

The meeting achieved a co-ordinated consensus on the exchange of information on nautical charts, and the coverage of paper nautical charts and electronic navigational charts (ENCs) involving waters of the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Both sides will further look into the arrangements for selling each other's charting products.

The ENCs currently published by the Marine Department cover the whole of Hong Kong waters and are available for an annual fee of HK\$830. Please refer to the website of the Hydrographic Office, Hong Kong (www.hydro.gov.hk) for details.

Details of the ENCs published by the China MSA are available at www.chart.gov.cn. ⚓



A portion of an ENC showing the East Lamma Channel.

Players in shipping industry honoured

In recognition of efforts by ship-owners and shipping companies for best performance during the past year, awards and commemorative plaques were presented during an annual luncheon jointly hosted by the Marine Department and the Hong Kong Ship-owners Association on April 18, 2011.

The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Francis Ho, presented a special plaque to CSC Nanjing Tanker Corporation whose mv Bai Lu Zhou had brought the Hong Kong Shipping Register above the 50 million gross tonnage mark on May 20, 2010.

The Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA), Mr Kenneth Koo, presented the Green Awards to recognise the efforts made by five shipping companies in protecting the environment. The Green Culture Award went to Maersk (HK)

Shipping Ltd for their long-term commitments to protect the environment starting from new buildings and day-to-day operations. The Green Innovation Award went to Oriental Overseas Container Line Ltd for their efforts in co-ordinating the liners to participate in the Fair Wind Charter. The Green Awareness Award went to Chellaram Shipping Ltd for building ships in compliance with the Ship Recycling Convention well before its implementation worldwide and for their voluntary compliance to IMO guidelines on control of bilges in ships in respect of storage, handling and disposal of oily wastes. Fleet Management Ltd also obtained the Green Awareness Award for their early implementation of IMO guidelines on Integrated Bilge Water Treatment System. Lastly, Shanghai Costamare Co Ltd was also presented with the Green Awareness Award for

their voluntary implementation of ISO14001 to the company and their ships.

The Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, presented awards to the best five performers in port state control inspections by various Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regions and the United States Coast Guard. This year's best performers, who have ships on the Hong Kong Shipping Register, were Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd, COSCO (HK) Shipping Co Ltd, Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd, Fleet Management Ltd and Oriental Overseas Container Line Ltd.

In March this year, a major earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami hit the northeastern coast of Japan. In the wake of the tsunami, the masters and crews of

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The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Francis Ho (right), presenting a special plaque to CSC Nanjing Tanker Corporation, whose mv Bai Lu Zhou's registration marked the crossing of the Hong Kong Shipping Register's 50 million gross tonnage.



The Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr Kenneth Koo (right), presenting the Green Culture Award to Maersk (HK) Shipping Ltd.



The Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Yau Shing-mu (right), presenting an accolade plaque to the representative of mv Port Pegasus for their seamanship during the tsunami in Japan.



Mr Koo presenting the Green Innovation Award to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.



Mr Koo presenting the Green Awareness Award to Chellaram Shipping Ltd.



Mr Koo presenting the Green Awareness Award to Shanghai Costamare Co Ltd.



Mr Koo presenting the Green Awareness Award to Fleet Management Ltd.


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Players in shipping industry honoured

two Hong Kong-registered vessels, mv Flanders Tenacity and mv Port Pegasus, had managed to take their vessels safely out from the waters in the region. The Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Yau Shing-mu, presented accolade plaques to them for their team efforts and exemplary seamanship.

Addressing the joint luncheon, the Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council, Mr Leung Chun-ying, pointed out that the current National Five-year Plan had clearly shown the country's support to Hong Kong to elevate its status as an international shipping centre. While Mr Leung said that Hong Kong could continue to enhance usefulness

and competitiveness of Hong Kong's container terminals and port facilities, he emphasised the city should develop

maritime services at the same time to cope with growing shipping activities in the Mainland. 



Mr Yau presenting an accolade plaque to the representative of mv Flanders Tenacity for their team efforts during the tsunami in Japan.



The Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper (right), presenting the Dragon Management Award to Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd.



Mr Tupper presenting the Phoenix Management Award to COSCO (HK) Shipping Co Ltd.



Mr Tupper presenting the Unicorn Management Award to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd.



Mr Tupper presenting the Pi Xiu Management Award to Fleet Management Ltd.



Mr Tupper presenting the Jin Chan Management Award to Oriental Overseas Container Line Ltd.

Cospas-Sarsat Joint Committee meets in HK

Hosted by the Marine Department (MD), more than 160 search and rescue satellite experts from 40 countries and organisations around the world attended the 25th session of the Cospas-Sarsat Joint Committee Meeting held in Hong Kong from June 13 to 21, 2011.

This was the second time that the MD hosted this annual international event. The MD hosted the 15th session of the meeting in Hong Kong in 2001.

"Cospas" is a Russian term representing "Sarsat", and Sarsat means Search and Rescue Satellites. The Cospas-Sarsat is a satellite system designed to provide distress alert and location data to assist search and rescue operations, using spacecraft

and ground facilities to detect and locate the signals of distress beacons carried by ships, aircraft and individuals. The system is recognised by the International Maritime Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization as a global search and rescue alerting system.

During the 25th session of the joint committee meeting, delegates discussed enhancement of the Cospas-Sarsat system and ways to improve distribution of distress alerts to search and rescue authorities more effectively and efficiently. One of the latest technological developments is the Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) system to be rolled out in 2018. The new system will be

able to shorten the alerting time from about 1.5 hours to a matter of seconds.

Speaking at a gala dinner hosted by the MD for the delegates on June 17, 2011, the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, expressed special thanks to the outgoing Head of the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat, Mr Daniel Levesque, who had held the post for 24 years, and a warm welcome to the Head-designate, Mr Steven Lett.

Mr Tupper pointed out that the Cospas-Sarsat was a robust and trustworthy safety system providing reassurance to seafarers, and was important to ensure distress alerts would be picked up when vessels at sea were

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Cospas-Sarsat Joint Committee meets in HK

in peril. He remarked that successive joint committee sessions had been continually working to improve this lifesaving service.

During the weekend on June 18,

2011 when there was no meeting, the delegates found themselves a relaxing time by joining an excursion to Lantau Island. The group visited the Tian Tan Buddha Statue, Po Lin Monastery and

Wisdom Path in Ngong Ping before experiencing a tradition touch of local culture in Tai O. 



A group photo of the 25th session of the Cospas-Sarsat Joint Committee Meeting.


Classification societies authorised

The Marine Department had renewed the authorisation agreement with nine classification societies for statutory surveys and certification services to Hong Kong registered ships for a five-year period, which became effective on May 29, 2011.

Attending a signing ceremony for the agreement on May 27, 2011

were the Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper, and representatives from the eight classification societies, namely the American Bureau of Shipping, Bureau Veritas, China Classification Society, Det Norske Veritas, Germanischer Lloyd, Korean Register of Shipping, Lloyd's Register and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai. The RINA Service S.p.A. had signed the

agreement on another occasion.

The authorisation ensured that during the five-year period, Hong Kong shipowners and ship operators would receive dedicated and professional supports from the Marine Department and the classification societies concerned worldwide. 



The Director of Marine, Mr Roger Tupper (centre), and representatives from eight classification societies attending the signing ceremony.

Liaison committee enhances navigational safety

Chaired by the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (Guangdong MSA), the first meeting of the Liaison Committee on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) was held on April 21, 2011 in Zhuhai. The second meeting was also held on July 4 in Zhongshan.

The Liaison Committee on the HZMB was established last year aiming at enhancing collaboration on smooth construction of the bridge by sharing of essential information and promoting navigational safety. Under the mechanism, representatives from the maritime authorities of Guangdong, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Macao and Hong Kong, and the HZMB Authority

participated in the meetings.


Topics discussed at the meetings included navigational safety related to the bridge construction, progress of the construction works, information sharing and emergency response mechanism as well as realignment of the routes of high-speed craft.

To enhance the role of the Liaison Committee, the participants agreed holding regular meetings throughout the bridge construction. Also, the existing emergency response mechanism was adopted, and construction and safety information will be shared through the existing channels of the maritime authorities.

Moreover, the Guangdong MSA

will lead a study on route realignment for high-speed craft and the associated matters so as to minimise impacts on their safe navigation.

At the recent committee meeting, the Guangdong MSA, Shenzhen MSA, and the HZMB Authority, together with other parties responsible for the bridge construction and related works, signed a memorandum to clarify their respective responsibilities in relation to the bridge construction and sea safety.

In Hong Kong, the Marine Department has been closely liaising with the cross-boundary ferry operators, so that their concerns will be addressed by the Liaison Committee. To ensure navigational safety in the waters concerned, the department will issue Marine Department Notices, broadcast safety messages and step up traffic regulation as necessary. 



Representatives from regional maritime authorities and the HZMB Authority attending the meeting.

POC bids Revd Ellis farewell

On May 12, 2011, the Port Operations Committee (POC) hosted a farewell lunch for retiring Reverend Peter Ellis in recognition of his long-time support to the community of seafarers as well as his commitment to the work of the Mission to Seafarers.

The POC also said the farewell on board the launch "Tin Hau" during which the Director of Marine-cum-Chairman of the POC, Mr Roger Tupper, presented a commemorative plaque to Revd Ellis.

Revd Ellis has been a well-known figure in the seafarers' community, serving twice in Hong Kong for more than two decades.

Born in Wales, he graduated from a theological college in Lampeter at 22 and was duly appointed by the Missions to Seamen (renamed the Mission to Seafarers) in Hamburg. Joining the Mission after ordination, Revd Ellis was destined for Nigeria, but was unable to get a visa. So he was instead appointed Assistant Chaplain in Hong

Kong in 1974. Two years later, he was transferred to Singapore, where his family stayed until his children reached secondary school age, and they moved to Middlesbrough. In 1992, Revd Ellis was appointed Senior Chaplain in Hong Kong and has remained here since.

Revd Ellis has won friendship in the world shipping community with his dedication and good sense of humour.

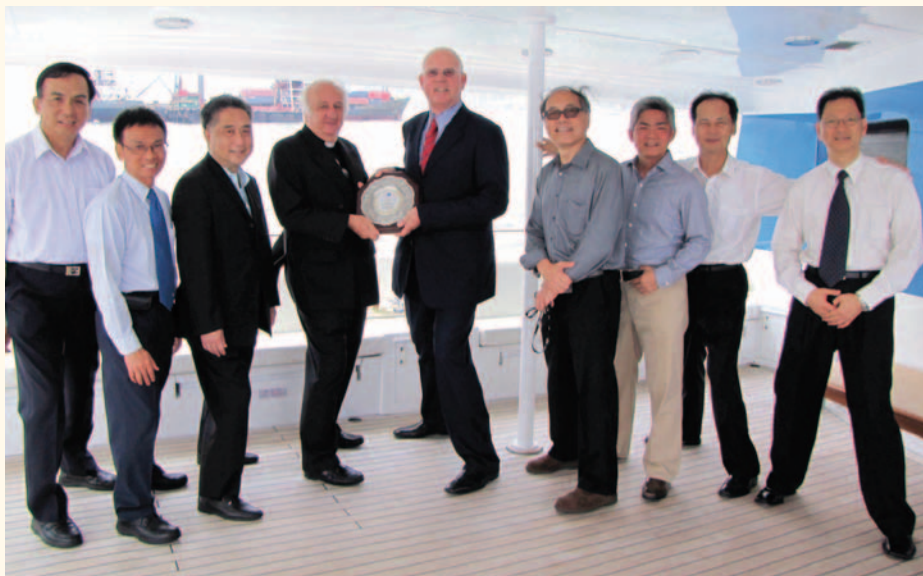
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POC bids Revd Ellis farewell

Since 1835 the Mission to Seafarers has been providing spiritual support and pastoral services to seafarers, regardless of race. It operates numerous centres worldwide where crews can get good meals, call home or access the internet. The Mission also helps

abandoned crews and visits seafarers who find themselves in hospitals or prisons. More importantly, it visits ships when their crews cannot get ashore, listening to the crews' problems and giving helping hands whenever possible. ⚓



The Director of Marine-cum-Chairman of the POC, Mr Roger Tupper (centre), presenting a commemorative plaque to Revd Peter Ellis on board the launch "Tin Hau".



The Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr Kenneth Koo (right), presenting a commemorative souvenir to Revd Peter Ellis at the joint luncheon of the Marine Department and the Association on April 18, 2011.

Team spirit explicit at boat races

Some 37 rowing teams representing government departments, maritime-related associations and companies demonstrated their physical fitness and team spirit at the annual Dragon and Colour Boat Races organised by

the Marine Department (MD) at the Government Dockyard, Stonecutters Island on May 28, 2011.

The government departments which joined the competitions to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival were the

MD, Customs and Excise Department, Fire Services Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Government Flying Service, Immigration Department,

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Team spirit explicit at boat races

Civil Aid Service, and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

The associations and companies taking part in the events of the day which were full of sweat and water included the Bearable Sports Association; CLP Holdings Limited; HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association; HK Pilots Association; Nautical Institute (HK Branch); Polytechnic marine alumni association, and a joint team of learned societies formed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (HK Section), HK Institute of Marine Technology, HK Institution

of Engineers (Mechanical, Marine, Naval Architecture & Chemical Division), HK Joint Branch of RINA and IMarEST, and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (HK Branch). 



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