

## Marine Department's new senior management

Mr Roger Tupper proceeded on pre-retirement leave and Mr Francis Liu Hon-por succeeded him as the Director of Marine on November 2, 2011. On the same day, Mr Ivan Tung Hon-ming succeeded Mr Liu as the Deputy Director of Marine.

There were also changes at the Assistant Director of Marine level. Apart from Mr Sin Tak-cheung and Mr Raymond Chung Siu-man, who continued to be the Assistant Director/Planning & Services and

Assistant Director/Port Control respectively, Mr So Ping-chi took up the post of Assistant Director/Shipping on November 2, 2011. Mr Sin takes charge of strategic planning for port development, passenger terminals, pollution control, public cargo handling facilities, buoys and navigational aids and hydrographic services. Mr Chung is responsible for port operations, navigational safety, marine emergencies, search and rescue co-ordination, licensing

and control of local craft. Mr So takes charge of the Hong Kong Shipping Register, enforcement of ship safety standards, marine industrial safety, surveys of foreign-going ships and local craft, and examination, certification and discipline of seafarers.

On December 14, 2011, Mr Chick King-fai and Mr Fung Kwok-ming were promoted to the Assistant Director of Marine rank. On the same day, Mr Chick and Mr Fung took up the posts of Assistant Director/Multi-lateral Policy and Assistant Director/Government Fleet respectively. Mr Chick is responsible for marine accident investigations and the development of policies, standards and legislation while Mr Fung oversees the design, procurement, operation, crewing and maintenance of government vessels.

The Marine Department continues to be represented in Europe by the Marine Adviser in Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, Mr Lee Wai-kuen, who maintains close liaison with the International Maritime Organization and other related bodies.



*Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu.*



*Deputy Director of Marine,  
Mr Ivan Tung.*



# Mainland, HK collaborate to survey substantial fishing vessels

A technique exchange meeting between the Register of Fishing Vessel (RFV) of the People's Republic of China and the Marine Department (MD) on surveying services for Hong Kong locally licensed fishing vessels, organised by MD's Local Vessels Safety Branch, was held at the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui between December 12 and 13, 2011.

The event, officiated by the Director of Marine and attended by the Director-General of the RFV and 27 RFV surveyors from Beijing, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangsu, Shandong, Hainan, Guangxi and Heilongjiang, was to enrich the knowledge and techniques of mainland surveyors in surveying Hong Kong's locally licensed fishing vessels.


The meeting was the first of its kind since 2007 when the MD authorised the RFV to carry out in China surveys of Hong Kong's locally licensed fishing vessels. The authorisations provide convenient and high-standard vessel surveying services to Hong Kong fishermen at lower fees, ensuring their vessels comply with the safety standards. In addition to the Guangdong RFV, the Fujian RFV and Zhejiang RFV have also become working partners of the MD after their authorisations by the MD.

The authorisations for surveys have been effective with good results, registering a substantial increase in the number of surveys conducted in

recent years. In 2010 alone, surveys for 100 fishing vessels licensed in Hong Kong were conducted by RFV surveyors.

Through the meeting held in December 2011, mainland survey-

ors deepened their understanding of Hong Kong's Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, the regime of surveys for locally licensed fishing vessels, the authorisations of surveyors or authorities for surveys, the requirements for plans and their approvals, and the regulations regarding initial and periodical surveys of fishing vessels, the aim of which was to improve the work guaranteeing the safe construction and operation of Hong Kong's locally licensed fishing vessels.

To further enhance the co-operative relationship, the RFV in collaboration with the MD has developed an RFV Handbook for Survey of Hong Kong Fishing Vessels to provide guidance for mainland surveyors, optimising the authorisations for surveys. 



*Mr Liu Zheng (left) presenting a directory on the authorisation for surveys of Hong Kong's locally licensed fishing vessels to Mr Francis Liu.*




*A group photo at the technique exchange meeting.*

## Co-operation agreement inked

A delegation led by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng, undertook a duty visit to Beijing from October 19 to 21, 2011 during which a co-operation agreement was inked.

When Ms Cheng met the Vice-Minister of Transport, Mr Weng Mengyong on October 20, 2011, a co-operation agreement aiming at promoting and strengthening mutual exchange as well as enhancing technical and service standards

in the areas of maritime affairs, salvaging, search and rescue, ship surveying, logistics and urban transport development was signed.

Among the delegates to Beijing was Mr Francis Liu, who was then the Deputy Director and is the Director of Marine. 



*Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng (centre left), and Vice-Minister of Transport, Mr Weng Mengyong (centre right).*

# Showcase HK maritime services

Officiating at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Pavilion at Marintec China 2011 on November 29, 2011, the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Francis Ho, said that to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's position as an international shipping centre, Hong Kong would strive to excel in the provision of high-quality maritime services such as shipping registration, ship brokerage, ship management, marine insurance, ship finance, maritime law and arbitration.

The pavilion was set up by the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Marine Department at Marintec China 2011, a biennial international shipping and maritime trade fair held



*Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Francis Ho.*

in Shanghai from November 29 to December 2, 2011. An eight-person delegation of the council members and government officials attended its opening ceremony as well as the grand opening.

Mr Ho noted at the Hong Kong Pavilion opening that it was noteworthy that some 43 per cent of arbitration cases handled by the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre in 2010 were related to shipping, a jump of seven percentage points as compared with 2009.

Apart from showcasing some of the shore-based maritime services, the Hong Kong Pavilion also displayed information on shipboard services available in the territory, such as weather routing, communications and supply of equipment.

The Hong Kong delegation also took the opportunity to visit the Shanghai Pudong International Shipping Service Centre.



## Oilex 2011 tests oil spill responses

A joint annual anti-oil pollution exercise, codenamed Oilex 2011, was held on November 15, 2011 off Tai Wan To, Lamma Island, to test responses in combating oil pollution in Hong Kong waters.

Under the Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan, the Marine Department co-ordinated the exercise, in which other government departments including the Auxiliary Medical Service, Civil Aid Service, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Government Flying Service and Hong Kong Police Force as well as oil companies took part.

During the exercise, response groups contained a mock oil spill from a beached product tanker carrying 5,200 tonnes of fuel oil which posed threats to the cooling water intakes of Lamma Power Station, Hung Shing Yeh and Lo So Shing beaches, and Sham Wan in the south of Lamma Island, which is a nesting site for Green Turtles.

In the wake of the "spillage", the oil combat teams set up a ring of floating barrier booms around the tanker while the shipowner's salvage teams plugged an underwater gash of the tanker. A second defence line of barrier booms



was also rigged on the power station's cooling water intakes and on the shorelines near the stranded tanker. A technique for herding oil spills was also demonstrated using water hoses and oil skimmers to form a proactive shoreline defence. Manual absorption mopping on the beach, rock-washing with pressurised spray guns, application of oil dispersant from launches on the sea surface and helicopters on the outskirts of the spill, as well as recovery of booms and equipment were also practised.

Apart from the on-scene exercise, a simulation covering crisis management and communications was completed earlier by relevant government departments to refresh common understanding of the incident command system during a major spill.

The Marine Department's Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan aims to ensure a timely and effective response to oil spills in Hong Kong waters.

In addition, the Department has

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## Oilex 2011 tests oil spill responses

signed a co-operation agreement with the maritime authorities of Guangdong, Macao and Shenzhen to adopt the Regional Maritime Oil Spill from Ship Response Plan for the Pearl River Estuary as the action guide for regional co-operation in response to major oil spills from ships. ⚓



# Raise local craft standard, safeguard their seafarers

The Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu, said that for further betterment of the regulations relating to surveys of local craft, the Marine Department (MD) was reviewing the related vessel safety codes and raising the safety standard.

Addressing the anniversary celebration of the Hong Kong Cargo Vessel-Traders' Association on November 28, 2011, Mr Liu told the audience that ever since the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance came into force in 2007, the MD had been working closely with local craft associations, in a bid to resolve the problems encountered after the implementation of the ordinance and its subsidiary legislations. Currently, the MD was reviewing the Code of Practice on Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels. In the meantime, the revision work of the Code of Practice on Shipboard Container Handling on Local Vessels had started, and one

of the major revisions was to issue clearer guidelines regarding the communication between crane operators on barges and signallers on mainland vessels.

Mr Liu pointed out that, since the implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, the number of industrial accidents related to marine works had dropped from some 400 annually to less than

200 in 2010. However, during the first nine months of 2011, the number of accidents involving cargo handling slightly increased compared with the corresponding period in 2010, and it was necessary to continue enhancing the publicity on operation safety and strengthening law enforcement.

Besides, the study on work safety of sand barges provides guidelines on weather changes, load distribution, seafarers staying onboard and donning lifejackets during towing. The MD urges operators of sand barges and tugs to follow the guidelines, boosting operational safety. ⚓



*Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu, addressing the anniversary celebration.*

## New port handbook-cum-directory

The recently published Port of Hong Kong Handbook & Directory 2011 offers a wealth of information and data for anybody who wants to know more about the services and products available in Hong Kong to those involved in the maritime sector. The handbook will be of particular value to those involved in shipping and its related support services.

Published by DaysOnTheBay Co Ltd with the support of the Marine Department, the full-colour handbook offers insight into different aspects of the port of Hong Kong, Asia's premier maritime hub. From ship management to ship finance and maritime law; from vital statistics provided by the Marine Department to where to meet maritime professionals; the handbook provides all you need to know, at your fingertips.



In recognition of the growing ties with the Mainland, the English publication includes a section in simplified Chinese.

Free hard copies of the handbook are available to interested parties in Hong Kong. You can send your request for a copy to [ipro\\_mdd@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:ipro_mdd@mardep.gov.hk).

Also, an electronic version of the handbook is available at <http://www.thisisasiamaritime.com/magazine/mag5/index.html>. ⚓

# Chances noted at logistics, maritime conference

More than 500 logistics and maritime players from 15 countries and regions attended the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference on November 25, 2011.

The one-day conference, one of the largest international conferences on the industry ever held in Hong Kong, was co-organised by the SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, in association with the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and Hong Kong Port Development Council.

The conference held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre featured nearly 30 speakers, including Mr Xu Zuyuan, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport, and Ms Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing.

In her opening address at the conference, Ms Cheng noted that "With professional workforce and world-class infrastructure, Hong Kong is

well-positioned to provide logistics solutions tailored for the high-end market segment. Similarly, the maritime sector is moving up the value chain to focus on the premier end of the market. A strong cluster of services have developed in ship broking, ship management, marine insurance, ship finance, and maritime law and arbitration to support the growing shipping activities in the Asian region."



Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng.

Ms Cheng also noted that Hong Kong's strengths and achievements in the fields of logistics, shipping and maritime service were duly recognised in China's 12th Five-Year Plan promulgated in March 2011. "The plan has unequivocally supported Hong Kong's development into a high-value goods inventory management and regional distribution centre as well as an international maritime centre," she said.

Following Ms Cheng's address was a panel discussion on China's 12th Five-Year Plan, with a special focus on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and India. Panel speakers included Ms Miriam Lau, Legislative Council member representing the transport constituency, and Mr Tung Chee Chen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Orient Overseas (International) Ltd. Meanwhile, a second panel focused on global business and trading trends and their impact on Asia.

The afternoon session featured three breakout sessions: "Logistics Evolution: Managing Your Business amid a Challenging Global Landscape", "What it Takes to be a Regional Distribution Centre" and "Maritime Industry – Today and Tomorrow." 🚢

# Seminar to enhance marine industrial safety

On December 12, 2011 in Guangzhou, the Marine Department (MD) and the Guangdong Maritime Safety

Administration (GDMSA) held the 2011 seminar on marine industrial safety of Guangdong and Hong Kong,



exchanging views on safety issues in relation to mainland seafarers working cargoes on board coastal and river-trade vessels within Hong Kong waters.

Attending the seminar included the senior management of the GDMSA and representatives from its Department of Seafarers, Department of Navigable Waters Management, Department of Vessels Supervision, as well as representatives of the Shenzhen MSA, Guangxi MSA and Department of Communications of Guangdong Province; Guangdong Shipowners Association, shipping enterprises which operate vessels calling Hong Kong and training institutes; for the MD, the Assistant Director/Shipping, Mr P C So, leading three representatives from the Marine Accident Investigation Section and Marine Industrial Safety Section; for the local industry, 14 representatives from the Hong Kong Cargo Vessel-

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## Seminar to enhance marine industrial safety

Traders' Association, the Institute of Seatransport, Hong Kong Logistics Management Staff Association, Goods Loading, Unloading and Transportation Workers Union, and Small Craft Workers Union.

At the seminar, (a) the MD gave a briefing on the work of investigations into recent marine industrial safety incidents, suggestions on revising the Code of Practice on Shipboard Container Handling on Local Vessels, and highlights of the work by the

Marine Industrial Safety Section; (b) mainland seafarer training institutes briefed participants on the basic training in seafarers handling cargoes safely; (c) those attending the seminar discussed how to improve marine industrial safety management, and with regard to marine industrial safety, enhance communication among various parties concerned.

There had been a frank exchange of views at the seminar, bettering the understanding of various problems

and suggesting practical views. These views included enhancing communication among seafarers of Guangdong and Hong Kong; supervisors strengthening effective monitoring; enhancing the appointment and identification of signallers; raising crane operators' work safety awareness; stepping up law enforcement; and studying the long-term goal of replacing seafarers with teams dedicated for working cargoes.



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