

## STH led shipping delegation to Dalian

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, led a 27-member delegation to Dalian from November 27 to 29, 2012, to promote the comprehensive maritime services offered by Hong Kong and to keep abreast of the latest developments of the maritime hub of northeast China.

The delegation included the Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu, Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council (MIC) and Hong Kong Port Development Council (PDC) members, shipowners and experts in shipbroking, ship finance, marine insurance, maritime law and ship registration.

The delegation attended the “Seminar on Hong Kong-Dalian Maritime Services”, organised jointly by the MIC, PDC and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) on November 28.

At the seminar, Professor Cheung and some members from the delegation showcased Hong Kong’s competitive edge in the maritime industry, including its sound legal system, low and simple tax regime, robust financial system, free flow of capital and information, and trilingual talents. In particular, they explored how Hong Kong’s professional maritime services could help Dalian’s maritime industry grasp new business opportunities.

They also visited the Liaoning Maritime Safety Administration, Dalian Shipbuilding Industry



The delegation attends the “Seminar on Hong Kong-Dalian Maritime Services”.



The delegation visits Dalian Port.

Company and Dalian Port. They met the Secretary of the Dalian Municipal Party Committee, Mr Tang Jun, and attended a dinner hosted by the Dalian Municipal Government.

On November 29, the delegation visited Dalian Maritime University and met its President, Professor Wang Zuwen.



# Meeting to enhance Guangdong and HK maritime co-ordination and co-operation

The Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), Shenzhen MSA and the Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) held their 20th regular meeting at the MD's Headquarters in Hong Kong on November 13, 2012 to discuss a number of maritime issues.

The Director of Guangdong MSA delegation, Mr Liang Jian Wei and the Vice Director of the Shenzhen MSA delegation, Mr Li Wei, led their delegations and met with the Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu; the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Ivan Tung; and other Marine Department representatives.

The attendees discussed issues on how to enhance co-ordination

and co-operation in maritime safety and protection of the Guangdong and Hong Kong maritime environment. The issues included safety and traffic administration at sea; seafarers' certification management; implementation of international conventions; marine accident investigation; port state control and flag state control; national and Hong Kong local requirements; emergency response in tackling pollutions; as well as safety management during the construction and operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Other issues discussed included preliminary preparation and implementation of International Convention for the Control and Management

of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment; Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol); arrangement of training, examination and certification for Hong Kong registered seafarers in Guangdong during the transitional period; training and seminars on maritime accident investigations; joint concentrated inspection on AIS of small vessels operating in Hong Kong and PRD waters; and establishment of mechanism of information exchange on false or concealed declaration of dangerous cargo.

The meeting achieved its expected goal, bearing fruitful results. 



# Maiden call of Celebrity Millennium in Hong Kong

The premium cruise brand Celebrity Cruises has arrived in Hong Kong for the first time when its large cruise ship "Celebrity Millennium" made its maiden call on December 22, 2012. An official ceremony was held on-board the ship to welcome her arrival. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Ivan Tung, was invited to attend the ceremony to exchange plaque with Captain Zisis S Taramas in the pres-

ence of other guests.

Celebrity Millennium is the first cruise ship deployed by the Celebrity Cruises to Asia. Her arrival signified the growth of the high-end cruise market in the region. With the completion of the first berth at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal in mid 2013, the berthing capacity for cruise ships will be greatly enhanced. The 2158-guest capacity Celebrity Millennium has

launched in 2000 and underwent a major renovation earlier in 2012. The 91,000 gross registered ton Malta registered ship has arrived from Singapore on a 14-night cruise which is also part of her maiden Asian season with one of the homeports in Hong Kong. She departed for Vietnam on December 24, 2012 after staying in Hong Kong for 3 days. 

## Visit to share experience on managing terminals

The Assistant Director (Planning & Services) of Marine, Mr KM Fung, visited Tianjin, China and Incheon, South Korea in early November 2012, to gain knowledge of modern terminal designs, operation and management.

Programmes included meeting with the president of the International Passenger Ferry Terminal in the Port of Incheon, Mr Lee Jun-Yong, to learn the latest mode of terminal and ferry management, particularly on the movement of passengers and their luggage, as well as security arrangement.

Mr Fung also paid a visit to the Tianjin Xingang International Passenger Ferry Terminal on Novem-



*The Assistant Director (Planning & Services) of Marine, Mr KM Fung (right), presenting a wooden shield to the Director of Dispatch & Control Centre, Mr Hong Ming, of Tianjin Port (Group) Co. Ltd.*

ber 1 and the International Passenger Ferry Terminal in the Port of Incheon on November 2. The delegation shared

experience on managing passenger ferry terminal operations during its visit. 

### Enhance Maritime Safety

## One-day Refresher Training for Local Vessels' Coxswains

Upon the Marine Department's request, Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI) organised 3 one-day refresher training courses for coxswains of local vessels between December 12 and 14, 2012. Each course could accommodate 20 participants.

The refresher course was designed for employed local vessels' coxswains, aiming at raising their safety awareness when navigating at

sea and their cognisance in preventing collisions.

The course also aimed to help coxswains review relevant navigational safety ordinances, as well as contingency and rescue measures for marine accidents such as shipwrecking and grounding, and to enhance life-saving skills.

Participants also used simulators to practise navigation skills under various scenarios. 



*Participants using simulators to practise navigation skills under various scenarios.*

Enhance Maritime Safety

# Local Vessels Advisory Committee discusses enhancing navigational safety

The Marine Department and the maritime industry convened a meeting of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (the Committee) on October 26, 2012, regarding the vessel collision incident off Lamma Island. The Deputy Director of Marine and Chairman of the Committee, Mr Ivan Tung, chaired the meeting to discuss improvement measures to enhance the navigational safety of local vessels.

Items for discussion and exploration of feasibility included raising compulsory third party risks insurance coverage; establishing a marine traffic accident victims assistance scheme; legislation to strengthen marine traffic regulations; reinforcing the current coxswains' examination syllabus and system for certification; implementing the compulsory installation of

closed-circuit televisions in the wheelhouse of local passenger vessels; limiting the working hours of coxswains and crew and reviewing the duty roster system; reviewing the minimum manning requirement of local passenger vessels; implementation of an Automatic Identification System on board local vessels; long-term public promotion and education strategies and further strengthening co-operation with the industry on maritime safety.

The industry representatives at the meeting expressed their concerns



regarding the importance of vessel safety and marine traffic safety, and agreed to co-operate with regard to feasible improvement measures. Various sub-committees have fixed schedules for further discussion of related items in detail, so as to reach a consensus as soon as possible for enhancing navigational safety. ⚓

## Marine Department holds seminars on navigational safety inside harbour

The Marine Department held two seminars to promote navigational safety inside the harbour on October 24 and 25, 2012 at the Mariners' Club, Tsim Sha Tsui. Participants included coxswains and crews of the operating companies of launches, ferries, kaitos and high-speed craft, and members of the chambers of commerce and the labour union in the maritime industry. About 250

people attended the two seminars.

The seminars covered navigational safety inside the harbour, emergency response and procedures, and analysis of the causes of accidents in the past and their implications. The Assistant Director (Shipping) of Marine, Mr PC So, in particular reminded the participants of the importance of navigational safety and continuously raising alertness. ⚓



## Enhance Maritime Safety

## Marine traffic arrangements and safety measures for the New Year's Eve Countdown Pyrotechnic Show

To raise the safety awareness of the public when they are participating in major events at sea, TV and radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) have been produced by the Marine Department (MD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), and have broadcast on TV and radio starting from December 21, 2012. In addition, the MD and the HKPF have published a poster and a leaflet to remind the general public of the safety measures to be followed on-board when participating in major events at sea.

In addition, the MD and the HKPF held a press conference on December 20 for the premiere broadcast of the TV APIs, and reminded the public

of safety advice on participating the pyrotechnic display organised by the Hong Kong Tourism Board on the New Year's Eve.

The Assistant Director (Port Control) of Marine, Mr Raymond Chung, appealed to the public to pay attention to marine safety when participating in major events at sea. Crew members and passengers should work together closely and follow the safety measures.



He emphasised that parents should look after children and ensure that the children are in a lifejacket at all times. Coxswains should keep a passenger and crew list in case it is needed. Passengers should note the locations of the vessels' emergency exits and the lifejackets, and note how to put on a lifejacket, before the vessels depart. Vessels should refrain from overloading or speeding.

On the New Year's Eve, the MD strengthened inspections of vessels and carried out enforcement action in regard to the guidelines on children wearing a lifejacket at all times and coxswains keeping a passenger and crew list, in order to ensure safety of the public. 

## Workshop held on green shipping and supply chains

The Government will continue to sharpen its competitive capability by seeking to provide the driving force for the shipping and port industries to thrive, the Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu, said on November 5, 2012.

Speaking at the opening plenary of the APEC Port Services Network (APSN) Workshop organised by the Secretariat of the APSN and co-hosted by the Marine Department,

Mr Liu noted that the Hong Kong Autonomous Shipping Register, maintenance of Hong Kong as a free port and timely provision of necessary supporting infrastructural facilities are important elements in strengthening Hong Kong's role as a regional shipping hub. The study on the feasibility of developing a new container terminal, as well as the dredging work of the Kwai Tsing Container Basin and its

approach, will help to ensure that our port is ready for ultra-large container ships at all tides.

On the environmental protection front, the Government has rolled out since September 2012 a three-year incentive scheme to attract ocean-going vessels using low-sulphur fuel while at berth in Hong Kong through reducing by half their port facilities and light dues. "We will also continue to partner with the industry and counterparts within the APEC region to promote green shipping like reduction of marine emissions from the international shipping and local craft community," Mr Liu said.

The APSN Workshop provided a platform for port administrations, government and industry to address issues related to green shipping and supply chains in ports. Over 50 representatives from across 16 member economies of the APEC region joined the three-day event held in Hong Kong. 



The Director of Marine, Mr Francis Liu (left), delivers a speech at the opening plenary of the APEC Port Services Network Workshop.

# Signing of contract to upgrade VTS services

On behalf of the Marine Department, the Assistant Director (Port Control) of Marine, Mr Raymond Chung, signed the "Service Level Agreement (SLA)" with the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on November 19, 2012.

The signing of the SLA symbolised the commencement of the replacement and upgrading project of Hong Kong Vessel Traffic Services (HKVTS) System. The EMSD will provide a comprehensive project management service to the Marine Department for the replacement project.

Targeted for commissioning in



The Assistant Director (Port Control) of Marine, Mr Raymond Chung (second left), signs the "Service Level Agreement (SLA)" on behalf of the Marine Department.

2016, the new HKVTS System will be designed with the most advanced technology and in compliance with the latest international requirements as prescribed by the Inter-

national Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). 

## New Port Handbook & Directory 2012 available

The Port of Hong Kong Handbook & Directory 2012, which was recently published, offers a wealth of information and data on the Port of Hong Kong. It offers great value to those engaged in shipping and support services, and to those who take a general interest in the latest industrial development.

Published by DaysOnTheBay Co Ltd, with the support of the Marine Department, this handbook outlines the broad range of services and facilities that are open to maritime business and professionals in this dynamic port city. A great deal of terminal data and facts to ship finance and maritime law; from insights into the Hong Kong Ship Register to the city's unique history is also included. Readers will find useful information at their fingertips.

In recognition of the grow-



ing ties between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the handbook also includes a section written in simplified Chinese.

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

An electronic version of the handbook is also available at the department's webpage [www.mardep.gov.hk](http://www.mardep.gov.hk).



# Oilex and HNS exercises completed successfully

Two annual exercises, the oil spill response joint exercise, code-named Oilex 2012; and the joint maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) spillage response exercise, code named "HNS exercise 2012", were held successfully.

The former exercise was held on October 25, 2012 off Ha Mei Wan, Lamma Island to test responses in combating oil pollution in Hong Kong waters, while the latter two-part activity involved a table-top exercise to test the response parties' communication at the Marine Department's Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre on November 7, 2012 and a

field exercise held at the coastal waters between Pearl Island and Loi On Pai, Tuen Mun on November 14, 2012.

The Oilex 2012 exercise, which was co-ordinated by the Marine Department, involved other government departments including the Civil Aid Service, Auxiliary Medical Service, Hong Kong Police Force, Government Flying Service and oil companies. The exercise involved response groups containing a mock oil spill accident from an anchored oil tanker carrying a leaked cargo of 5,000 tonnes of fuel oil near Ha Mei Wan.

The HNS Exercise 2012, jointly organised by the Marine Department

and the Environmental Protection Department, tested the government departments' readiness under the Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Response Plan and to test their responses in combating spilt HNS.

The HNS Exercise 2012 field exercise hypothesized a scenario of chemical, styrene leaking from a chemical tanker in Hong Kong waters. Response parties included the Environmental Protection Department, Marine Department, Fire Services Department, Government Laboratory, Hong Kong Police Force and Marine Department's contractors.

Styrene, being the most commonly encountered HNS cargo in Hong Kong waters, was picked for the exercise. ☸



*A pollution control vessel and a Government Flying Service helicopter simulate the spraying of oil dispersant onto the sea during the Oilex 2012.*

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