

STH visits UK and Netherlands

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, visited the United Kingdom and the Netherlands between September 23 and 27 to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre and logistics hub. He also exchanged views with transport authorities there.

During his stay in the United Kingdom,

Professor Cheung called on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and visited the Port of Southampton to look at port and vessel management. He also called on the Transport for London, and toured the London Overground and London Underground. He also attended the Hong Kong Association Membership Forum and Reception in London to promote Hong

Kong as a global city.

On September 26, Professor Cheung toured the European Container Terminals in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to gain experience in container port automation and attended a luncheon with the Dutch logistics industry. He also paid a courtesy call on Amsterdam's Deputy Mayor, Ms Kajsa Ollongren. 

40th APEC Transportation Working Group Meeting successfully concludes in Hong Kong

Over 230 delegates from 19 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies and organisations, including the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), APEC Port Services Network (APSN), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) attended the 40th APEC Transportation Working Group Meeting (TPTWG-40) in Hong Kong from August 18 to 22. Delegates discussed a wide range of issues covering the safety, security, resilience and sustainability of transportation systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Efficient and reliable transportation is needed to propel and sustain growth, and transportation is all about location and connectivity," the Acting Secretary

for Transport and Housing, Mr Yau Shing-mu, said at the opening plenary on August 19.

He also shared with delegates the initiatives which reaffirm Hong Kong's commitment to improving transportation systems to enhance the flow of goods, people, services and capital in the APEC region as directed by Ministers at the 8th Transportation Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, last year.

At the meeting, member economies undertook to continue their efforts in contributing towards closer economic integration and greater co-operation in connectivity and infrastructural growth in the region. Delegates also committed to promoting gender awareness and facilitating the growth and development of women in transportation.

At the closing plenary on August 22, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Joseph YT Lai, congratulated the successful conclusion of TPTWG-40 and noted that member economies would join to harmonise regulations where possible, to reduce practical barriers to efficient movement of passengers and freight, and to promote effective supply chains.

Four technical tours to the Hong Kong International Airport, Hongkong International Terminals Limited, MTR Corporation Limited and Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal were arranged for delegates to understand the world-class facilities of Hong Kong in the aviation, maritime, land transport and logistics sectors.

Established in 1991, the TPTWG



usually meets biannually to work towards trade liberalisation and facilitation in the transport sector, economic and technical assistance, and capacity building. Key goals for the Working Group include

the development of transportation systems to ensure safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region; and to provide assistance with capacity building in

developing economies to contribute to efficient, safe, secure and sustainable transport in the APEC region. 



Regular meeting with maritime authority to enhance environmental compliance and safety at sea

The regular meeting between the China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) and Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) was held in Dalian on August 14. The Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong, led delegations that met with representatives of the China MSA to discuss various issues, including ways

to reduce vessel emissions, ship routing at Mirs Bay and updates of navigational charts.

At the meeting, MD noted that the local legislation on prevention of air pollution (MARPOL Annex VI) is being amended. The changes are expected to be completed by the end of 2014 and

will incorporate the latest standards of the International Maritime Organization on vessel emission. This will require that the diesel engines of newly built Hong Kong-registered vessels and local vessels comply with the NOx emissions standard. MD will continue to explore with the Mainland maritime authority



on how to regulate non-international vessels of the mainland, so as to reduce NOx emissions.

In addition, MD has formed a specific working group with Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration to exchange views on the planning of ship routing at Mirs Bay to secure navigational safety. Both sides agreed to maintain close

cooperation and to push forward the establishment of specialised ship routing for ships using liquefied natural gas in Mirs Bay waters.

To further enhance navigational safety in the Pearl River Delta, MD has worked with the Navigation Guarantee Center of East China Sea of the Ministry of Transport and has provided high quality electronic

navigational charts covering waters off the Pearl River Delta for vessel operators.

MD and China MSA also shared views on the safety management of high-speed passenger vessels plying between Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta ports and on ways to strengthen cooperation and information sharing between both sides. 🌊

East Asia countries meet to promote navigational safety



Speaking at the 3rd meeting of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Charting and Hydrography Committee (CHC), held on July 30, the Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong, said that substantial technical co-operation in hydrographic services among littoral states on a regional basis would be required.

Mr Wong noted that marine authorities have an obligation to conduct high standard hydrographic

surveys and to supply accurate and up-to-date official Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) to users.

He said Hong Kong is in the process of amending legislation to put into effect changes in the International Maritime Organization Safety of Life at Sea Convention regarding carriage requirements for ship-borne navigation systems and equipment, in order to implement the Convention fully. The authority will continue to ensure the

proper use of official ENCs by educating the marine community and by carrying out Port State Control inspections.

Twenty-four representatives from seven countries joined the three-day event held in Hong Kong. Topics discussed at the meeting included resolving overlapping of ENCs covering the East Asia region and addressing data consistency of the ENCs produced.

The EAHC, which was established in 1971, is a regional hydrographic



commission within the framework of the International Hydrographic Organization aiming to push forward the development of hydrographic surveys and its services in order to ensure navigational safety in the region. 



The Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong (right), presents a souvenir to the Chairman of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission Charting and Hydrography Committee cum Chief Hydrographer of Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Dr Parry Oei.

Signing of contract to replace and upgrade VTS services

On behalf of the Marine Department, the contract for replacing and upgrading the Hong Kong Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) System was signed between the Electrical & Mechanical Services

Department (EMSD) and the HITT Holland Institute of Traffic Technology B.V. (HITT B.V.) on October 8.

Targeted for commissioning in 2016, the new HKVTS System will be designed

with the most advanced technology and will comply with the latest international requirements to facilitate the Marine Department to monitor marine traffic and enhance maritime safety. 



The Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Mr CT Lai (centre, front), pictured with EMSD and HITT B.V. representatives.

Director of Marine commends brave acts at sea



The Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong pictured with the awardees.

Twenty-four people who risked their lives to rescue others in Hong Kong waters were presented with commendations by the Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong, on September 5.

Receiving the commendations were 14 police officers, six crew members of the vessel "Shun Heng", one crew member of Hong Kong Pilots Association Limited, one crew member of the vessel "Coral Sea" and two members of the public.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Mr Wong noted that beaches and coastal waters were popular recreational attractions among local residents and visitors. It was necessary for the public to be aware of maritime safety when enjoying leisure activities. The Marine Department, being the administrator of the port, was committed to promoting maritime safety, and industry stakeholders were reminded of the importance of navigational safety and the need for constant vigilance.

Mr Wong added that not all accidents

placing people in peril in the waters could be avoided. When there are accidents, persons at the scene have to judge and make decisions within a limited timeframe on whether to rescue others. Without these brave and public-spirited

people, some lives would have been lost and families bereaved. On behalf of the Marine Department, he expressed his heartfelt thanks to the heroes and offered his congratulations to all of them on their selfless and public-spirited acts. 🌊



One of the awardees, Miss Chau Kei-yin, rescued a man from the sea off the Star Ferry Pier, Tsim Sha Tsui, in August last year. Miss Chau was jogging along the waterfront when Typhoon Signal No. 8 was hoisted. The sea was very rough that day, and she noticed a man in the water shouting for help. Without hesitation, she jumped into the sea and brought the man ashore. She suffered a minor abrasion on her left leg, but the man was fine. The picture shows Mr Michael Wong presenting commendations to Miss Chau.

Seminar on prevention of dark smoke emissions held

Officers of the Marine Department held a seminar for local vessel owners, coxswains, boat operators and the public in Southern District on August 14 to brief them on the new legal requirements concerning dark smoke emissions from vessels.

Legislative amendments to the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313) and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) that step up the control of dark smoke emissions from vessels were gazetted on July 18 and came into effect on the same day.

The officers at the seminar reminded industry participants to comply with the newly amended requirements to prevent their vessels from emitting smoke that

is darker than the allowed level and to exercise due diligence to maintain their vessels' engine and fuel systems in good operating condition.

Pursuant to the amended Section 51 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), it is an offence for any local vessel in the waters of Hong Kong to emit dark smoke that is as dark as, or darker than, Shade 2 on the Ringelmann Chart for three minutes or more continuously at any one time. In case of contravention, the owner of the vessel, his agent and the coxswain each commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$10,000 for a first conviction and \$25,000 for any subsequent conviction.

As regards ocean-going vessels, pursuant to the amended Section 50 of

the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313), it is an offence for any vessel in the waters of Hong Kong to emit dark smoke that is as dark as, or darker than, Shade 2 on the Ringelmann Chart for three minutes or more continuously at any one time. In case of contravention, the owner of the vessel, his agent and the master each commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$25,000 for a first conviction and \$50,000 for any subsequent conviction.

In order to strengthen public education and publicity on this matter, the Marine Department will hold seminars in other districts and will distribute leaflets and Micro-Ringelmann Charts produced by the Marine Department to the maritime industry



Officers of the Marine Department hold a seminar for local vessel owners, coxswains, boat operators and the public in Southern District to brief them on the new legal requirements concerning dark smoke emissions from vessels.

and the public. Members of the public can make reports to the Harbour Patrol Section Command Centre of the Marine Department (operating 24 hours a day) at 2385 2791 or 2385 2792 should they suspect that a vessel is emitting excessive dark smoke.

Members of the public can collect the Micro-Ringelmann Chart and leaflet at the Marine Offices. 



An officer of the Marine Department describes how to use the Micro-Ringelmann Chart at the seminar.



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