

STH leads delegation to promote HK logistics services in Malaysia

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, led a delegation to Malaysia from December 3 to 5, 2014 to promote Hong Kong as a regional logistics hub.

The delegation, comprising members of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the Hong Kong Port Development Council, met with officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and visited the port and logistics facilities at Westports and Port Klang Free Zone in Malaysia. They also visited the cargo centre inside the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to learn more about the air cargo security facilities and attended a seminar co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore, on December 4, 2014.

Co-operation Plan on Sharing VTS Data in the Pearl River Estuary Region signed

The Seventeenth Plenary of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr C Y Leung, and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Zhu Xiaodan, was held in Guangdong on November 6, 2014.

“The Co-operation Plan on Sharing Vessel Traffic Services Data in the Pearl River Estuary Region” was signed by representatives of Hong Kong and Guangdong delegations after the meeting. The Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration, the Marine Department of the HKSAR and the Marine and Water Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region all agreed to jointly study the feasibility of sharing Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Data. These data include radar signals and information on the Automatic Identification Systems, navigational notice, severe weather warnings, passage plans of vessels, port control and other information relevant to the operation and management of VTS.

Marine traffic control and safety measures for New Year's Eve countdown celebrations

The Marine Department (MD) implemented marine traffic control and safety measures for the New Year's Eve countdown celebrations held by the Hong Kong Tourism Board on December 31, 2014.

On the event day, the MD established a closed area in the waters off the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai, where barges for the fireworks display were anchored, and a restricted area in the Central Harbour. To ensure vessels disperse in an orderly manner, the Eastern and Western Cordon Lines of the restricted area were lifted in stages after the event.

To enhance marine safety, the MD officers strengthened inspections of spectator vessels to ensure that the vessels meet safety requirements, which included providing sufficient life-saving appliances on board, ensuring that children wear a lifejacket at all times and having coxswains keep a passenger and crew list on board.

The MD and the Police officers also strengthened inspections especially on speeding and overloading, and they maintained order at major landing facilities after the event to ensure the smooth and safe disembarkation of passengers.

Oilex and HNS Exercise test marine pollution responses

The Marine Department held two annual marine pollution response joint exercises, code-named Oilex 2014 and Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Exercise 2014, simultaneously in the morning on October 16, 2014 off Tuen Mun. The joint exercises were held to test responses in combating pollution caused by spillage of oil and HNS in Hong Kong waters.

During the joint exercises, response groups contained and cleaned up a mock spill situation that would have posed threats to the nearby environment and facilities. The scenario involved a collision between a

tanker later anchored off Pearl Island and leaking diesel and a chemical tanker later anchored off Lok On Pai and leaking liquid acrylonitrile. Response officers also conducted a shoreline oil clean-up drill at the beach near Tsing Lung Garden.

Under the Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan, the Marine Department (MD) coordinated the oil spill exercise, in which other government departments including the Civil Aid Service, the Auxiliary Medical Service, the Government Flying Service (GFS) and the Hong Kong Police Force took part. Several oil companies and Hong Kong Response Limited also participated in the exercise.

The HNS spill response exercise was co-organised by the MD and the Environmental Protection Department with participation from the Fire Services Department, the Government Laboratory and the Hong Kong Police Force.

In the wake of the simulated oil spill, oil combat teams used floating barrier booms to encircle the tanker while salvage teams transferred the diesel and patched up the leakage. Two barrier booms were also set up near the tanker to prevent the spill from drifting. The exercise demonstrated the spraying of oil dispersant from pollution control vessels and a GFS helicopter onto the sea, as well as the use of oil skimmers and other equipment.

Combating the HNS spill, the response team stopped the leakage, transferred the remaining chemical contents in the damaged tank to other tanks, and sprayed seawater on the sea surface to suppress the chemical vapour.

The exercises provided hands-on experience for relevant departments to adopt a suitable pollution combating strategy according to the properties of the substances concerned.

Seminar of Marine Accident Investigation for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao 2014

The Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (GDMSA) organized

the Seminar of Marine Accident Investigation for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao 2014 on December

10, 2014 in Zhongshan. Marine Department representative, Surveyor of Ships/Marine Accident Investigation, Mr GR Ye, gave a briefing on the marine accidents in Hong Kong in 2014, and reported on the co-operation with the GDMSA, the Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration and the Marine and Water Bureau of Macao on marine accident investigations. He also studied cases with other representatives at the seminar, analysed causes of the accidents and made suggestions.

On December 11, 2014, the Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong Wai-lun, visited the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Office under the GDMSA and he was briefed on the progress.

Port experience sharing with APSN member economies

The 7th APEC Port Services Network (APSN) Council Meeting and Workshop were held in Seattle, USA from November 3 to 6, 2014. The Assistant Director (Planning & Services), Mr SM Chung, attended and met with representatives from 11 other member economies.

The meeting attendees had extensive discussions on issues including the APSN Five-Year Strategic Plan, Action Plan 2015, Organizational Structure of APSN Secretariat, APSN Membership Dues and Financial Rules, Budget for 2015, APSN Green Port Award System (GPAS), Quarterly Newsletters and Port Development Report.

In a workshop titled Gateway Ports and Supply Chain Connectivity, Mr Chung reported on the challenges Hong Kong faces as a gateway port and shared some experiences. While Hong Kong benefits from its geographical location, infrastructures and the existing Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications adopted, various measures have been taken to tackle challenges such as its position among container ports in the region and the modal shift of mainland cargo coming into the port.

Mr Chung highlighted hardware issues, including the dredging of the Kwai Tsing Container Basin and its approach channel, the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and the conversion of more back up

land to serve the container port.

Mr Chung also pointed out software issues. For example, the department is upgrading the Electronic Business System to let overseas clients settle payments more conveniently, and the terminal industry has developed an e-Port system to facilitate container movement.

Moving forward, the government has also conducted the “Study on the Strategic Development Plan for the Hong Kong Port 2030” to formulate the long term development strategy for the port.

Tripartite conference to enhance co-operation on fishing vessel inspections

The Assistant Director of Marine (Special Duties), Mr SF Wong, and Senior Surveyor of Ships/Local Vessels Safety, Mr KF Tang, visited Macao on October 30, 2014 for The 2nd Tripartite Cooperation Meeting on the inspection of fishing vessels. Participating parties were the Register of Fishing Vessels of the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Marine Department and Macao Marine and Water Bureau.

Consensus was reached at the conference that the Register of Fishing Vessel of People's Republic of China (PRC) would continue inspections on Hong Kong and Macao fishing vessels, and that all Hong Kong and Macao mobile fishing vessels entering the PRC waters for production and operations would be subject to the Monitoring System for the Production Safety of Fishing Vessels in Guangdong Province. The Hong Kong and Macao fishing vessels will be monitored under the same standards and requirements as their mainland counterparts.

The minutes of the “Co-operation Meeting on the Inspection of Fishing Vessels” was signed by the three parties after the conference.

The conference was jointly organized by the Register of Fishing Vessel of the PRC, the Oceanic and Fisheries Administration of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong Marine Department and Macao Marine and Water Bureau. Mainland and Macao representatives attending the meeting included Director of the Register of Fishing Vessel of the PRC, Mr Li Jieren, Deputy Director of the Oceanic and Fisheries Administration of Guangdong

Province, Mr Bai Hua and Director of Macao Marine and Water Bureau, Ms Wong Soi-man.