

STH leads delegation to promote HK maritime services in Germany

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, led the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council delegation to Hamburg, Germany in mid-April to promote Hong Kong's maritime services. The Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong Wai-lun, and Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Ms Julina Chan, accompanied Professor Cheung on the visit.

The delegation met with the German Shipowners' Association, the International Union of Marine Insurance and the German Shipbrokers Association. They also visited the Port of Hamburg.

On April 16, Professor Cheung gave a keynote speech at a business luncheon organised in collaboration with the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

Before returning to Hong Kong, he also had lunch with other local maritime business leaders to strengthen ties with the industry.

Advanced Maritime Drills and Exercise Workshop held in HK

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, in collaboration with International Maritime Organisation's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme and the Marine Department, jointly organised the Advanced Maritime Drills and Exercise Workshop at the Mariners' Club in Hong Kong from December 16 to 19, 2014.

A total of 32 participants, including officers from the Marine Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Immigration Department, as well as security personnel of the port facilities in Hong Kong, joined the workshop.

The workshop covered concepts of drills and exercises, exercise and communication planning, and table-top exercises under the guidance of experienced trainers. Key learning points included resource management particularly for implementing measures at heightened security levels, detailed description of security events, and media handling techniques for participants to apply in future security exercises.

MD holds seminar to promote navigational safety

The Marine Department (MD) held the Navigational Safety Seminar 2015 on January 26 to remind coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels to post extra lookouts, proceed at a safe speed and strictly comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea when navigating in poor visibility during the fog season.

More than 160 representatives from the shipping industries, coxswains and operators of local vessels, as well as representatives of marine works projects attended the seminar. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr HM Tung, said that coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels have the responsibility to uphold safety at sea and fully comply with the marine legislation. Coxswains and crew members should take appropriate and adequate safety precautions and prepare contingency arrangements before setting sail. Vessels should have sufficient life-saving appliances. Coxswains and crew members should ensure that vessels, engines and equipment are maintained in conditions that are suitable for navigation. In addition, they should be aware of the contact numbers of the port traffic control unit and units that provide emergency services, and be fully aware of the latest weather conditions and related Marine Department Notices.

On another front, to avoid accidents caused by fatigue, owners and operators of all local vessels must ensure that the duty rosters of crew members, including coxswains, have sufficient rest periods to avoid fatigue at work.

As more infrastructure projects are being undertaken in Hong Kong these days, Mr Tung again reminded coxswains and crew members to pay special attention to Marine Department Notices on marine works, and exercise extra caution when navigating in the vicinity of marine works areas to avoid accidents.

MD organises education seminars and publicity campaigns to promote marine safety on a regular basis. The Navigational Safety Seminar 2015 discussed issues including incidents of vessels running aground, application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea in Hong Kong waters, analysis of marine accidents and their implications, and the navigational features and limitations of ocean-going vessels in Victoria Harbour.

Marine Department Notice No. 5 of 2015 on safe navigation in poor visibility has been issued and it has been uploaded to the department's website (www.mardep.gov.hk).

Career Expo attracts young blood to the maritime industry

To promote the many career opportunities in the maritime industry in Hong Kong, the Marine Department (MD) and the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council (MIC) set up booths at the Education and Careers Expo 2015 from February 5 to 8 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

At the MD's booth, representatives from the Marine Officer, Surveyor of Ships, Assistant Marine Controller and Marine Inspector II ranks introduced their work, shared their experience and answered visitors' enquires on required qualifications and career prospects. Visitors watched videos about the work of Marine Officer and Surveyor of Ships and also experienced steering a vessel in the harbour by using a full mission ship simulator.

The MIC's booth displayed information on the diverse career options in both sea-going and shore-based professions. The booth also showcased various maritime-related education programmes offered by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the City University of Hong Kong, the Maritime Services Training Institute of the Vocational Training Council and the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi). Visitors could find information on the various manpower training initiatives under the "Maritime and Aviation Training Fund", including the Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme, Local Vessel Trade Training Incentive Scheme, Maritime and Aviation Internship Network, the Hong Kong Maritime and Logistics Scholarship Scheme, the Hong Kong Maritime Law Scholarship Scheme, the Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme and the Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme. Television programmes about young people taking up seafaring career were shown.

The MIC also organised two career talks with industry representatives invited to share their career pursuits, work experience and further studies.

Experience sharing with Japanese delegation

A delegation of representatives from the Japanese Shipowners' Association, Japan Maritime Center and Japan External Trade Organization (HK) visited the Marine Department on March 23.

The Assistant Director of Marine (Shipping), Mr YM Cheng, General

Manager of Shipping Registry & Seafarers' Branch, Mr YK Li, and Assistant Registrar of Shipping, Mr CM Li introduced various measures adopted by the Hong Kong Shipping Register, including continuous improvement of services, reduction of registration cost and the implementation of quality assurance systems for Hong Kong registered ships, which have made it the fourth largest shipping register in the world in terms of gross tonnage of vessels.

The delegation also learnt that the Hong Kong Shipping Register will introduce more e-services, expand the one-stop shop service for ship registration, strengthen quality control inspections, provide technical support and advice, and enhance co-ordination with relevant Mainland authorities to offer better protection for Hong Kong ships when they are in international waters and at foreign ports.

The delegation then joined a harbour tour to the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, during which Senior Marine Officer, Mr SF Wong, shared the latest port developments in Hong Kong.

MD reminds the public about marine safety

The Marine Department (MD) is committed to promoting marine safety and the Department reminds the public to pay attention to safety and to abide by the law when hiring open cruisers of smaller sizes and propulsion power (commonly known as “sampan”) for angling at sea.

Under the current legislation, the owner of any sampan fitted with a propulsion engine is required to possess an Operating Licence. Regarding the operation, any person operating a mechanized sampan of over 3 metres in length or fitted with engine of more than 3 kilowatts total propulsion power is required to possess a relevant Certificate of Competency as an operator.

If an owner of sampan intends to let his vessel for hiring, the owner shall ensure that they possess a Certificate of Inspection, third party risks insurance, and a written charter agreement between the owner and the charterer. Otherwise, the vessel cannot be let for hiring. MD reminds the public that owners and coxswains who contravene the regulation shall be liable on conviction to a fine.

In the *Police Magazine* TV programme broadcast on February 28, MD and the Police also reminded the public about the points to note when hiring sampans.

Naming and delivery ceremony of M.V. “CSCL Arctic Ocean”

The Director of Marine, Mr Michael WL Wong, and Chief Assistant Registrar, Mr WC Wong, attended the naming and delivery ceremony of the container vessel “CSCL Arctic Ocean” held in Ulsan, Korea on March 20.

This Hong-Kong-registered 19,100 teu container vessel was named by the wife of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Korea Madame Li Shan. Mr Michael Wong presented a souvenir to the captain of the vessel. The vessel is now the largest container ship in the Hong Kong Shipping Registry.