

## **Outstanding shipping companies and seafarers honoured**

The Marine Department and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) jointly hosted a luncheon cum award presentation ceremony on June 18. Ship management companies, masters and crew were awarded for their outstanding performance with Hong Kong ships, support of the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR) and bravery on the high seas.

The Guest of Honour, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, presented awards to the following companies, which had outstanding performance in Port State Control inspections: Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd., Seaspan Ship Management Ltd., COSCO (HK) Shipping Co. Ltd., Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd. and Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.

The Director of Marine, Mr Michael Wong Wai-lun, presented awards to China Shipping Group, which has the highest gross tonnage (GT) on the HKSR in 2014; and to Associated Maritime Company (Hong Kong) Ltd., which placed the most GT on the HKSR in 2014. Mr Wong also awarded Greathorse Group for its ship crossing the 90 million GT mark on the HKSR.

The Chairman of the HKSOA, Mr Kingsley Koo, presented awards to the masters and crews of five Hong Kong registered vessels for their exemplary actions of bravery to save lives on the high seas. They were m.v. Hebei Power, m.v. Lara Venture, m.v. Maersk Roubaix, m.v. Pacific Pioneer and m.v. Yuan Fu Star.

## **Occupational safety and health during very hot weather**

The Harbour Transportation Workers General Union, the Small Craft Workers Union, the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Labour Department and the industry organised the 2015 Work Safety Launching Ceremony on “Prevent Heat Stroke when Working Outdoors during Very Hot Weather” on June 3. It served to remind practitioners of the sea transport and logistics industry of the risks when working outdoors during very hot weather and discussed how to take precautionary measures to avoid

accidents.

The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Tung Hon-ming said in his speech that practitioners of the sea transport and logistics industry, as well as those working at sea, have to engage in long periods of continuous manual work during high temperatures, a major challenge to physical health. The working environment may easily cause health problems such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and heat cramps. Employers should provide a good working environment and equipment to relieve heat and make appropriate work arrangements to reduce the hazards and risks of working during very hot weather.

Mr Tung emphasised that the Marine Department is concerned about marine industrial safety and the occupational health conditions of the practitioners. He called for the industry to continue to enhance occupational safety and health.

### **Forum to facilitate maritime cooperation in Asia-Pacific**

The 16th Session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was held in Shenzhen from April 21 to 23. The Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Mr Lai Chi-tung, and Senior Marine Officer (Search and Rescue), Mr Ho King-pui, attended and met with representatives from the Asia-Pacific region.

The forum was held by the China Maritime Safety Administration this year. Attendees discussed various issues, including regional cooperation, passenger ship safety, safety at sea, seafarer welfare, maritime incident response and marine environment protection.

On maritime incident response, Mr Ho introduced the Hong Kong Marine Department's plan of implementing a Medium-altitude Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) ground segment system in the coming years.

Once fully operational as declared by Cospas-Sarsat, the system will provide almost immediate, accurate and reliable detection of 406 MHz distress alerts, which will enable more efficient search and rescue operations

to assist people in peril.

### **Experience sharing on port development**

A delegation from the Lyttelton Port of Christchurch, New Zealand visited the Hong Kong port on April 22 to share experience on port development.

Senior Marine Officer, Mr Chan Fook-chiu, introduced the planning of port facilities and latest port developments in Hong Kong during a tour to the Kwai Tsing container terminals and the Kai Tak cruise terminal.

The Lyttelton Port Authority is about to launch a major redevelopment project to rebuild and enhance its facilities after experiencing serious earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. The delegation has visited various ports, including Hong Kong, to learn about the implementation of port planning and what challenges may be encountered during the redevelopment.

### **Marine Department holds seminar to promote water sport safety**

The Marine Department (MD), the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) held the 2015 Safety Afloat Educational Seminar at the Hong Kong Space Museum on May 7 to enhance the public's knowledge on water sport safety.

Speaking at the seminar, the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Tung Hon-ming, reminded the public to be well prepared before participating in water sports activities, to ensure safety.

Last year, there were several accidents involving passengers who fell and were injured while moving around on vessels and embarking or disembarking when participating in boating or water sport activities. Also, a passenger lost his life when he was suspected to have fallen into the sea after drinking. In view of that, Mr Tung reminded the public to pay attention to safety when embarking, disembarking and moving around on vessels, especially after drinking.

Ship masters or boat operators should make appropriate preparations before setting sail for water sport activities. They should plan the voyages and consider whether the vessel's structure is suitable for the water area and the activity to be conducted. There should be enough experienced crew members on board to guide passengers to follow safety instructions when engaging in water sport activities. Ship masters or boat operators should also familiarize themselves with all the safety precautions and contingency measures, check the vessel's structure and its safety equipment on board before setting sail, and know the location of the equipment and how to use it. They should also collect sufficient weather forecast information for the whole voyage and take heed of weather conditions or warnings.

Mr Tung pointed out that pleasure vessels should not enter shallow or dangerous waters. They should strictly abide by shipping ordinances, navigate at a safe speed at all times and strictly abide by relevant regulations in speed restricted zones. He appealed to boat operators to take appropriate safety measures to avoid any possible risk if they see other water sport activities nearby.

Swimmers should understand their physical abilities. When swimming at beaches or in coastal areas, they should stay inside the beach area and avoid swimming near anchored vessels. They should take care of their children and avoid swimming alone or away from companions. They should also refrain from swimming right after consumption of food, alcohol or drugs.

The MD will continue its promotional and educational work to enhance the safety awareness of the public. Furthermore, officers of the Marine Police and the MD will step up their patrol activities in speed-restricted zones, waters in the vicinity of popular beaches and water sport sites, and will take action against any illegal or reckless boating activities. The LCSD lifeguards will also keep an eye out for boating activities at beaches and the adjacent waters. They will alert officers of the MD and the Marine Police to take law enforcement action against offenders when necessary.

## **Marine Department steps up patrol at popular water sport sites**

The Marine Department (MD) has stepped up patrols at popular water sport sites during the summer to remind the public to pay attention to safety when participating in water sport activities. On July 18, MD conducted a patrol in the speed restricted zone of Hebe Haven, Sai Kung. MD officers also disseminated leaflets to enhance the public's knowledge on water sport safety.

Senior Marine Officer Mr Law Lap-keung said the department will continue to step up patrols at popular water sport sites.

Officers boarded vessels to inspect their Operating Licences, their operators' Certificate of Competency, their sufficiency of life-saving appliances and fire-fighting apparatuses, the number of passengers and crew carried on the vessel, etc. They also checked the speed of vessels with a laser gun to deter speeding.

In the past three years, there has been a decrease in the number of cases in which people involved in violating the maximum permitted speed within speed restricted zones were prosecuted and convicted. The number of cases dropped from 20 in 2012, to 7 in 2013, and to 8 in 2014. This reduction is believed to be the result of strengthened promotion and education work the MD carried out in recent years, and the raised public awareness in marine safety.

## **41st Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Transportation Working Group**

The 41st Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Transportation Working Group (APEC TPT-WG) meeting was held in Jeju, the Republic of Korea, from May 26 to 29. Senior Marine Officers, Mr Chan Fook-chiu and Mr Lam Tak-keung, as well as over 270 delegates from 17 APEC economies and other organisations, including the APEC Business Advisory Council, Asia Port Services Network, International Air Transport Association, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation attended the meeting. Delegates

discussed a wide range of issues covering safety, security, resilience and sustainability of transportation systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Chan attended the Maritime Experts Group meeting, and Mr Lam attended the Maritime Security Sub- Group (MEG-SEC) meeting. At the MEG-SEC meeting, Mr Lam introduced the Advanced Maritime Security Drills and Exercises Workshop jointly organized by APEC, IMO and the Marine Department in December 2014 in Hong Kong.

### **Port Facilities and Light Dues Incentive Scheme extended**

The Port Facilities and Light Dues Incentive Scheme for ocean-going vessels (OGVs) using cleaner fuel while at berth in Hong Kong was extended to March 31, 2018.

All registrations of OGVs under the current incentive scheme will expire on September 25 this year. To continue to enjoy the 50% reduction in port facilities and light dues up to March 31, 2018, the owners, charterers, managers or agents of OGVs are required to do a new one-off registration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) under the extended incentive scheme.

After successful registration under the extended incentive scheme, the masters or other representatives of the OGVs are required to send a notification with the required information to EPD within 48 hours after berthing to confirm that the vessel has taken measures to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions while berthing.

OGVs not registered under the current incentive scheme can also join the extended incentive scheme.

On July 1, 2015, the scope of the incentive scheme was extended to cover not only OGVs using low-sulphur fuel but also those using liquefied natural gas or approved fuel or technology that can reduce sulphur dioxide emissions as effectively as the use of low-sulphur fuel while at berth.

Marine Department Notice No. 91 of 2015 on the extended incentive

scheme has been issued. More details are available at the Marine Department's website ([www.mardep.gov.hk](http://www.mardep.gov.hk)) and the EPD's website ([www.epd.gov.hk](http://www.epd.gov.hk)).