

STH leads logistics and port delegation to Korea

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, led a delegation comprising some members of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the Hong Kong Port Development Council to visit Korea in late November 2015 to promote Hong Kong as a regional logistics hub and its role as a “super-connector”.

During his stay in Seoul, Professor Cheung called on the Korean Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Mr Kang Ho-in. He also spoke at a business seminar co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo on the infrastructural, institutional and geographical strengths of Hong Kong as a regional logistics hub. He highlighted the role of Hong Kong as the "super-connector" between the Mainland of China and the world.

Professor Cheung and the delegation also visited the cargo handling facilities at Incheon Airport and the port facilities in Busan.

Tenancy agreement for Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal signed

After an open tender exercise, the Government and Hongkong Macao Hydrofoil Company Limited (HMHCL) signed a tenancy agreement for the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal on October 28, 2015. Commencing on November 16, 2015, the tenancy, with a monthly rent of \$4,680,000, will be for seven years.

Under the agreement, HMHCL occupies and uses the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal to provide cross-boundary passenger ferry services, operating a minimum of 14 round trips between the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal and Macau every week, and has the option to roll out services from Hong Kong to Mainland cities. The Government provides immigration, customs, police, marine control and port health services at the terminal.

The passenger ferry services between Tuen Mun and Macau, as well as a Mainland city, rolled out on January 28, 2016.

Joint inspection of vessels held at Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter

The Marine Department (MD), the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a joint inspection and vessel fire safety publicity activity at the Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter on November 4, 2015. Officers of the MD checked whether the vessels met requirements, including keeping effective and sufficient fire-fighting equipment, and had no excessive amount of inflammable substances and dangerous goods on board. Since the vessels being inspected by the MD complied with the requirements, no verbal warnings were issued and no prosecutions were made.

After holding a seminar on fire prevention in typhoon shelters for representatives of typhoon shelter users, officers of the MD, the FSD, the HKPF, the FEHD and the AFCD also distributed promotional leaflets to persons-in-charge and workers of vessels during the inspection on November 4, 2015. The activities served to remind them to keep effective and sufficient life-saving and fire-fighting equipment on board. Ship owners and masters of vessels should properly maintain and regularly inspect the equipment.

In addition, the crew should follow appropriate fire prevention measures, including keeping a close watch on fire when cooking, using up-to-standard cooking stoves, ensuring no miscellaneous articles are placed near cooking appliances when cooking, and not placing an excessive amount of inflammable substances and dangerous goods on board. Officers of the MD and relevant departments conduct a joint inspection at the Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter. Photo shows an MD officer distributing a promotional leaflet to a worker of a vessel to remind him to pay attention to fire safety on vessels. Inspection and maintenance of devices such as cooking appliances, machinery and electrical installations should be carried out periodically by qualified persons. To prevent overheating of machinery on vessels, crews should facilitate heat dissipation by keeping a clean and orderly environment and ensuring good ventilation. Welding and metal

cutting works on board should be carried out by qualified persons and away from inflammable substances. Crews should pay attention to electrical installations nearby and arrange for a crew member to stay on guard with a fire extinguisher.

When joss sticks and paper are burnt on board, they should be burnt in metal containers and away from other items with the crew on board keeping watch on them. The ashes should be sprayed with water to ensure fire is completely extinguished before disposal. The crew should stay alert to the burning process, the movement of the vessel and the wind direction to prevent fire caused by scattered kindling. Crew members should not smoke in places such as beds and cabins, and cigarette ends should be completely extinguished before disposal.

In case of fire, the public should call the 999 emergency hotline immediately, and fire extinguishing equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire hoses should be used safely to control the fire.

A spokesperson for the MD said that the passage areas in typhoon shelters provide emergency access for rescue vessels in addition to allowing the navigation of vessels. Typhoon shelter users should ensure that the passage areas are unobstructed. Unauthorised vessels should not take up any position or be berthed, moored, anchored or secured in a passage area.

MD holds seminar on height restrictions on bridges

The Marine Department (MD) held a navigational safety seminar on November 2, 2015 to remind representatives of the local tugboats and barges industries of the points to notice when navigating in height restricted areas in Hong Kong waters.

More than 130 representatives from the industries attended the seminar. The issues discussed covered cases of bridge collision incidents in the world, relevant legislation in Hong Kong, height restricted areas in Hong Kong waters, calculation of air draught of vessels, and safety precautions for towing and lightering vessels. The MD also distributed leaflets concerning locations and extents of height restricted areas within Hong Kong waters.

Forum to promote academic-industry exchange in the maritime field

The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, attended and delivered opening remarks at the International Forum on Shipping, Ports and Airports 2015 (IFSPA 2015) at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on November 30, 2015.

Ms Cheng said Hong Kong has a comprehensive network of experienced professionals from various maritime sectors. As one of the busiest ports in the world, the port of Hong Kong has the potential to further enhance its position as an international maritime services hub.

She added that the Hong Kong Ship Register maintained by the Marine Department, is now the fourth largest in the world, with its fleet tonnage crossing the mark of 100 million gross tons in September 2015.

The IFSPA 2015 was organised by the C.Y. Tung International Centre for Maritime Studies and the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. It invited academics and practitioners to discuss various issues on shipping and transport logistics, as well as challenges faced by the industry.

Promotion of Hong Kong maritime services

The Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing, Miss Joey Lam, led a delegation of Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and Hong Kong Port Development Council to Shanghai and Ningbo from November 30 to December 2, 2015 to promote Hong Kong's maritime services. The General Manager of Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch of Marine Department, Mr YK Li, was a member of the delegation.

The delegation attended Marintec China 2015, a world-renowned international maritime exhibition and conference in Shanghai, and officiated at the opening of Hong Kong Pavilion that took part in the event. It also took the opportunity to visit the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, a major

fast-growing Mainland port, and gained first-hand knowledge about its recent development.

MD holds seminar to promote navigational safety

The Marine Department (MD) held the Navigational Safety Seminar 2016 on January 6. More than 180 representatives from the shipping industries, coxswains and operators of local vessels, as well as representatives of marine works projects attended the seminar.

The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, reminded 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 restricted visibility. In the seminar, the MD also talked about navigational safety in height restricted areas in Hong Kong waters to strengthen industry representatives' understanding on height restrictions during navigation.

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 lifesaving and fire-fighting equipment. 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 MD 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, coxswains and crew members should pay special attention to MD Notices on marine works, and exercise extra caution when navigating in

the vicinity of marine works areas to avoid accidents.

The MD organises education seminars and publicity campaigns to promote marine safety on a regular basis. The issues discussed Navigational Safety Seminar 2016 included the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea as well as safe navigation in restricted visibility, navigational safety near height restricted areas in Hong Kong waters, analysis of marine accidents and their implications, the maintenance and safe operation of ship engines, and navigational safety of small craft during the fog season. The MD also distributed leaflets at the seminar to promote navigational safety.

MD Notice No. 183 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).

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, 2015.

Closed Areas was established in two stages on the event day in the waters where barges for the fireworks display anchored, i.e. in the waters off the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui. A restricted area was established 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, 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.

Regular meeting with China MSA

The second regular meeting for 2015 between the China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) and Hong Kong Marine Department was held in Shenzhen on December 16, 2015. The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, led a delegation to meet with the Director-General of the China MSA, Mr Chen Aiping and his delegation, to discuss issues on maritime safety and environmental protection. The two parties reached consensus on how to strengthen cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong on maritime issues.

Tripartite conference to strengthen management of fishing vessels

Representatives of the Register of Fishing Vessel of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong Marine Department and Macau Marine and Water Bureau held the 3rd Tripartite Cooperation Meeting on the inspection of fishing vessels in Hong Kong on December 15, 2015. They discussed the management and inspection by the Mainland authority on Hong Kong and Macau mobile fishing vessels that operate within PRC waters, to enhance tripartite cooperation.

Director of Marine commends brave acts at sea

The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, presented commendations on November 30, 2015 to 21 police officers and a member of the public who risked their lives to rescue others in Hong Kong waters.