

Appointments to HK Maritime and Port Board announced

The Government announced appointments to the new Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB) on April 1. The Board, chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, has a wide representation from the industry, academia and relevant statutory bodies. It comprises 19 non-official members, eight institutional members, and three ex-officio members. The appointments will be for two years.

"The setting up of the HKMPB is a major milestone of maritime development in Hong Kong. It is a high-level platform for the Government to work closely with the industry to set the direction for the long-term development of Hong Kong's port and maritime services, foster the development of maritime manpower, and devise strategies and initiatives to enhance Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre," Professor Cheung said. "We are confident that the Board members, with their profound expertise and diverse backgrounds, will make valuable contributions to the work of the HKMPB."

The Chief Executive announced in his 2016 Policy Address that the Government would establish the HKMPB by merging the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and the Hong Kong Port Development Council.

Three functional committees are formed under the HKMPB, namely the Maritime and Port Development Committee, the Manpower Development Committee and the Promotion and External Relations Committee. They are chaired by industry figures to strengthen the trade's involvement in the strategy and policy formulation process.

The Government decided to set up the HKMPB having taken on board the findings and recommendations of a business case study commissioned in mid-2014 to look into the feasibility of setting up a new maritime body, as well as views and suggestions received from stakeholders during the study period.

"The establishment of the HKMPB underlines the great importance that the Government attaches to the development of Hong Kong's maritime and port industries," Professor Cheung added.

Membership of the HKMPB

Chairman

Secretary for Transport and Housing

Deputy Chairman

Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)

Chairman, Maritime and Port Development Committee

Mr Andy Tung Lieh-cheung

Chairman, Manpower Development Committee

Mr Irving Koo Yee-yin

Chairman, Promotion and External Relations Committee

Mr David Cheng Fu-kwok

Members

- Mr Paul Chan Kei-yan
- Ms Agnes Choi Heung-kwan
- Mr Patrick Fong Yiu-fai
- Mr Michael Goh Pek-yang
- Mr Sean Aloysius Kelly
- Mr Kwok Kwok-chuen
- Miss Rosita Lau Sui-yee
- Mr Li Lian-jun
- Dr Venus Lun Yuen-ha
- Ms Iris Mak Kam-yu
- Dr Jimmy Ng Jim-mi
- Mr John Bruce Rae-Smith
- Mr Xiong Ge-bing
- Miss Elsa Yeung Mei-fong
- Mr Frankie Yick Chi-ming
- Mr Gerry Yim Lui-fai

Institutional Members

- Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association (Represented by Miss Jessie Chung Wai-yin)
- Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (Represented by Mr Roberto Giannetta)

- Hong Kong Sea Transport and Logistics Association (Represented by Mr Eric Wong Man-sum)
- Hong Kong Shipowners Association (Represented by Ms Sabrina Chao Sih-ming)
- Hong Kong Shippers' Council (Represented by Mr Willy Lin Sun-mo)
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Represented by Ms Margaret Fong Shun-man)
- Institute of Seatransport (Represented by Mr Roy Carson Chan)
- Vocational Training Council (Represented by Dr Carrie Yau Tsang Ka-lai)

Ex-officio Members

- Director of Marine
- Director-General of Investment Promotion

Celebration of the crossing of 100M GT by the Hong Kong Shipping Register

The Government held a cocktail reception at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum on March 4 in celebration of the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR) crossing the 100 million gross tonnage (GT) mark. More than 200 people attended the event.

Since its establishment in 1990, the HKSR has grown from about 6 million GT to over 100 million GT in September 2015. Currently, the HKSR ranks first in Asia and fourth in the world.

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 set up booths at the Education and Careers Expo 2016 from January 28 to 31 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 and promotion prospects of a Marine Officer and a Surveyor of Ships and also experienced steering a vessel in the harbour by using a full mission ship simulator.

MD supports development of local maritime talent

The Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI) and the Warsash Maritime Academy of Southampton Solent University in the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 17. They plan to provide a top-up degree programme for MSTI higher diploma graduates, which would offer an international progression pathway for local maritime talent.

The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng attended the signing ceremony to support the cooperation between the two institutions. She said that to sustain the growth of the maritime industry, it was very important to ensure the continued supply and development of professionals to meet the demands of the maritime sector, including the provision of home-grown talent with seafaring skills and experience.

Encouraging more people to join the maritime industry

The Marine Department (MD) is committed to encouraging more young people to join the maritime industry. From time to time, the staff of the MD share their work experience at sea with members of the public who are interested in the industry.

Now a Marine Officer at the MD, Miss KM Chan is the first Hong Kong female mariner to qualify as a Captain of ocean-going vessels. Miss Chan said her days at sea allowed her to serve in different positions, work with seafarers from various nationalities and travel around the world, which all broadened her horizons. On the notion that the maritime industry is male-dominated, she held that occupations should be gender neutral, and the key is a passion for the job. Female seafarers may be outperformed by males physically, but they are likely to be more detail-oriented and receptive, which are important on the job.

In the “Morning Suite” radio programme of RTHK Radio 2 broadcast on March 7, she also called for more people to join the maritime industry.

Marine traffic control and safety measures for Lunar New Year Fireworks Display

The Marine Department (MD) implemented marine traffic control and safety measures for the Lunar New Year Fireworks Display held on February 9.

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 dispersed 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.