

New senior management of the Marine Department

Former Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Tung Hon-ming, proceeded on pre-retirement leave on July 14, 2016. Mr Wong Sai-fat succeeded Mr Tung as the Deputy Director of Marine. Mr Wong was the Assistant Director of Marine (Special Duties) from September 29, 2014 to July 13, 2016.

Young people urged to join maritime and aviation sectors

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, officiated at the Maritime and Aviation Internship Network Cocktail Reception on July 11. He said the Government attaches great importance to the development and manpower training of the maritime and aviation sectors. With the national Belt and Road Initiative and the implementation of the Hong Kong International Airport three-runway system project, there will be ample opportunities for young people joining these expanding sectors.

On manpower development, the Government launched the \$100 million Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF) in 2014 to encourage young people to join the industries and support their long-term development through various scholarships and award schemes. The internship network, implemented under the MATF for the third year now, has attracted nearly 60 companies in maritime and aviation sectors this year offering more than 560 intern places for students, representing an increase of about 20 per cent when compared with last year. To deepen interns' exposure to the operation of the maritime and aviation sectors, the internship period was extended from two to three months this year.

Professor Cheung said he hoped that the students would gain more knowledge about the work and career prospects of the maritime and aviation sectors through the internship scheme and consider joining the trade after graduation.

In addition, the Marine Department (MD) is committed to encouraging more young people to join the maritime 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. Earlier, Miss Chan introduced how she joined the maritime industry to Hon Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, Chair of the New People's Party, and the representatives from the "50reasons. hk" website of the Party. Miss Chan also called

for more people to join the maritime industry.

Oilex and HNS Exercise test marine pollution responses

The Marine Department (MD) held two annual marine pollution response joint exercises, code-named Oilex 2016 and the Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Exercise 2016, simultaneously in the morning on October 27 off Tuen Mun to test marine pollution responses in the event of pollution caused by oil spillage and the spread of HNS in Hong Kong waters.

In the test scenario, an oil tanker collided with a container vessel. The fuel oil carried by the tanker was found leaking and the tanker later anchored to the south of Pearl Island. Meanwhile, five containers loaded with phosphoric acid solution (85 per cent concentration) fell from the container vessel into the sea, and subsequently drifted in the vicinity of the incident and leaked phosphoric acid solution. During the joint exercises, response groups were tasked to contain and clean up the spilled oil and chemicals, which would have posed threats to the nearby environment and facilities.

In the wake of the simulated oil spill, oil combat teams deployed floating barrier booms to encircle the tanker while salvage teams transferred the fuel oil and patched up the leakage. The teams also set up barrier booms near the tanker, used oil skimmers and simulated the spraying of oil dispersant with sea water from pollution control vessels to prevent the spill from spreading. Simultaneously, a shoreline cleansing team conducted a shoreline oil cleanup drill at the beach near Tsing Lung Garden.

In combating the simulated HNS spill, the response teams lifted the damaged containers out from the sea and sprayed seawater on the sea surface to simulate dispersing the acidic plume and expediting the dilution of phosphoric acid solution.

Under the Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan, the MD co-ordinated the oil spill response exercise, while other government departments including the Civil Aid Service 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.

The exercises provided hands-on experience for relevant departments to adopt an emergency response strategy to prevent pollution according to the properties of the substances concerned.

Marine traffic control and safety measures for the National Day Fireworks Display

The Marine Department (MD) implemented marine traffic control and strengthened the inspection of spectator vessels for the National Day Fireworks Display held on October 1 to ensure that safety requirements are met.

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.

Experience sharing with marine professionals

Representatives of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology, UK (IMarEST), visited the Marine Department (MD) on October 12. The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, led MD officers to meet with the President of the IMarEST, Dr Jane Smallman. The Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology (HKIMT), Ir Alan Tsang, also joined the visit.

On October 13 and 14, Ms Cheng and the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat, attended the Pan Asian Association of Maritime Engineering Societies' Advanced Maritime Engineering Conference 2016 in Hong Kong.

Meeting with China MSA

A meeting between the Hong Kong Marine Department and China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) was held in Guangzhou on September 8. The Assistant Director of Marine (Shipping), Mr YM Cheng, led MD officers to meet with the Deputy Director-General of the China MSA, Mr Li Hongyin and his delegation, to discuss the regulations for surveys of high speed craft plying between the Pearl River region and Hong Kong. Representatives of the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration and the China Classification Society also participated in the meeting.

Meeting with Guangdong MSA

A meeting between the Hong Kong Marine Department and Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (GDMSA) was held in Hong Kong on October 12. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat, led MD officers to meet with the Deputy Director-General of the GDMSA, Mr Zhuang Zeping, and his delegation, to discuss issues on the safety management of high-speed passenger vessels.