

STH leads delegation to London and Hamburg

The Secretary for Transport and Housing and Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, led a delegation comprising members of the HKMPB and representatives of the maritime industry to visit London, the United Kingdom (UK) and Hamburg, Germany from February 26 to March 4 to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre. The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng accompanied Professor Cheung on the visit.

In London, Professor Cheung and the delegation had meetings with various maritime-related organisations, including the International Group of Protection & Indemnity Clubs, the London Maritime Arbitrators Association, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners, and the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners. They also met with local shipbrokers and representatives of the industry to exchange views on the development of the global maritime industry and explore the possibility for them to develop their business in Hong Kong.

Professor Cheung and the delegation attended a seminar and networking lunch co-organised by the HKMPB, the Cass Business School and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). Professor Cheung delivered a speech on forging closer collaboration between Hong Kong and London in maritime services. During the stay in London, he also met with the Minister of State at the Department for Transport of the UK, Mr John Hayes, and had lunch with leaders of Maritime UK and Maritime London.

On March 2, Professor Cheung and the delegation attended a seminar co-organised by the HKMPB and the HKTDC in Hamburg. Professor Cheung introduced Hong Kong's maritime services in his opening address at the seminar. In addition, Professor Cheung met with the Senator for Economy, Transport and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Mr Frank Horch.

Encouraging young blood to join 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 and Port Board set

up booths at the Education and Careers Expo 2017 from February 23 to 26 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The booth of the MD mainly introduced the job duties, entry requirement, entry pay and career prospect of four recruitment ranks, namely Marine Officer, Surveyor of Ships, Assistant Marine Controller and Marine Inspector II. Representatives from the ranks also explained the details and ways to join the industry. In addition, visitors could watch videos at the booth to learn more about the work of MD's staff, or experience steering a vessel in the harbour by using a full mission ship simulator.

THB Facebook introduces job duties of MD officers

Following the first batch of interviews with two Marine Inspectors of the Harbour Patrol Section, the Facebook page of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), "Any Walker", continued to interview other staff of the Marine Department (MD) to introduce their daily work and share their feelings about the career.

The Facebook page of the THB can be accessed at www.facebook.com/anywalker.hk. Videos of the interviews are also uploaded to the MD's thematic webpages on "Maritime Industry". Young people can get know of the profession and its relevant duties through these various channels.

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

The Marine Department (MD) implemented marine traffic control and strengthened the inspection of spectator vessels during the 2017 Lunar New Year Fireworks Display held on January 29 to ensure that the safety requirements are met.

On the event day, the MD established a closed area in the waters where barges for the fireworks display were anchored, and a restricted area 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.

Director of Marine pays a visit to Guangdong MSA

The Director of Marine, Ms Maisie Cheng, led MD officers on February 21 to meet with the new Director-General of the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (GDMSA), Mr Chen Biwu, and his delegation, to exchange views on projects involving both the MD and the GDMSA and to strengthen cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong on maritime issues.

Forum to facilitate maritime cooperation in Asia-Pacific

The 18th Session of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) forum was held in Malaysia from March 22 to 23. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat, and the Chief of the Marine Accident Investigation and Shipping Security Policy Branch, Mr Shi Qiang, attended the forum and met with representatives from the Asia-Pacific region. Attendees discussed various issues, including regional cooperation, safety at sea, seafarer welfare, maritime incident response and marine environment protection.