

Madams in MARDEP

The work of a female Assistant Ship Inspector, Ms Lilian Chan

The maritime industry has always given people a male-dominated occupation. Yet, more and more women are devoted to this industry as times change. Female officers are now also common in various grades in the Marine Department (MD) in which its first female Director was appointed in 2015. Besides the general grade officers, there are currently 93 female officers who belong to different departmental grades in the MD, namely 2 Marine Officers, 1 Senior Assistant Shipping Master, 2 Assistant Ship Inspectors (ASI), 11 Assistant Marine Controllers, 52 Marine Inspectors and 3 Launch Assistants etc. The Hong Kong Maritime News will introduce their works in the MD. To start with, this issue will have Ms Lilian Chan, an ASI in the Maintenance Section of the Government Dockyard.

Three disciplines for ASI

There are three disciplines for ASI, namely machinery discipline, hull and deck discipline and electrical discipline. In addition to specified qualifications, one to three years' relevant experience is also required for applying the job. An ASI can be promoted to Ship Inspector, Senior Ship Inspector and Chief Ship Inspector. Lilian holds a Higher Diploma on Mechanical Engineering and belongs to the machinery discipline. Before joining the MD, she has worked on OGVs and shipyards for several years.

Vessels in great variety make the job challenging

The government fleet, with more than 800 vessels, serves 14 government departments. Lilian said that the Maintenance Section is responsible for carrying out maintenance and repairing work for these vessels and ensuring timely completion of work, including managing the operation of workshops and supervising the works done by the contractors. "As there are a variety of vessels and the damaged components are always different, we have to deal with the repairing works individually," says Lilian. By coming across different types of vessels and accumulating more practical experience, she hopes to extend her knowledge of the profession bit by bit.

Cramped working environment requires good physical fitness

The compartment is hot and cramped and so working there is not that easy. "I

have to enter it for inspection and that requires good physical fitness,” Lilian recalls those days working in the shipyard. The working environment is totally different from an ordinary office which is comfortable and tidy. She can manage to survive though she looks well-groomed. She pushes herself to perform as outstanding as her co-workers do no matter how hard the task is. Her higher diploma has touched on the basic knowledge of mechanical engineering. It so happened that she discovers her passion for marine engineering, and therefore she chooses to work on board and in the shipyards to gain more experience in this area. Finally, she joins the department as an ASI. She has been given training opportunities, such as naval architecture, which allows her to have more comprehensive skills to do ship inspection and repair. Lilian encourages young people to be perseverance and to explore their interest by trying more different things. If they want to join the MD as ASI, she believes that it will be good for them to equip themselves with knowledge on marine engineering and more pragmatic working experience so as to get ready for grasping the opportunity and keep fighting for their goals.

Maritime learning platform “NAUTIC QUEST 魚吐” launched

Produced by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and funded by the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, the official launch of NAUTIC QUEST 魚吐(nauticquest-yuto.com) encyclopaedic platform for maritime learning took place on May 12. Covering a wide range of interesting and inspiring maritime topics, this multi-media, interactive, the encyclopaedic platform is comprised of 6 components:

- * the Yuto School: school-based learning materials on maritime topics targeting F4 students in four HKDSE core subjects: Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics, and Liberal Studies
- * Harbour 24/360: 360° photos and videos of key locations with significant meaning to our maritime history and affairs
- * Harbour Treasure Hunt: an online game that enhances knowledge of facilities which keep sea travel safe along our harbor
- * the Yuto Aquarium: an augmented-reality enabled exhibit that employs interactive and multimedia presentation strategies to engage the audience
- * the Roving Exhibition: to bring the NAUTIC QUEST 魚吐 maritime learning platform to schools and communities and directly engage the audience through the Yuto Aquarium display set

* a dedicated website (www.nauticquest-yuto.com) featuring an archive of the permanent contents of NAUTIC QUEST 魚吐

With this set of specially designed school-based learning materials and a multitude of interactive and multimedia components, the NAUTIC QUEST 魚吐 encyclopaedic platform for maritime learning aims at enriching the knowledge of students and the general public on the most precious natural resource of Hong Kong — our harbour — and its deep connections with a host of maritime industries as well as our daily life.

New membership of Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board announced

The Government announced the new term of 28 members of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), including six new non-official members, ten incumbent non-official members, eight institution members and four ex-officio members, for a term of two years with effect from April 1, 2018.

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, welcomed the new members and thanked the outgoing members for their sterling contributions to the HKMPB and the development of maritime industry in Hong Kong. Mr Chan said that the Government would join hands with the industry to further consolidate Hong Kong into a major maritime services hub which generated good synergy with shipping and port operations through a vibrant port, an established shipping heritage as an international maritime centre as well as effective governance, policies and practices for the maritime cluster.

For the new membership of the HKMPB, please visit the website www.hkmpb.gov.hk/en/about-us.html#membership-of-hkmpb.

Departmental News

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, visited the MD on May 9 to learn more about the department's work and challenges. He visited the Vessel Traffic Centre and the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre located at the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal, followed by boarding a department patrol launch to learn more about the work of frontline officers. During the tea gathering with staff

representatives of various grades, he encouraged colleagues to continue to provide quality and professional marine services to the public.

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) has accredited on December 19, 2017 the new training programme to be implemented by the MD for newly recruited Assistant Marine Officers and Assistant Surveyor of Ships (Nautical) ranks. IMarEST presented the accreditation certificate to MD on March 7, 2018. The programme, which would take between four to five years, has been holistically developed to nurture future professional officers for the sustainability of the MD.

The Qualifications Framework (QF) Partnerships Commendation Ceremony cum QF 10th Anniversary Celebration (Ceremony) was held on May 14. Certificates of commendation were presented by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, to over 200 organisations including enterprises, industry-related trade, associations and unions, professional bodies and Government departments for their support and contributions to the QF. The MD was one of the Government departments implementing the QF. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat received the commendation as QF Star Supporter at the ceremony.

The delegation of the China Rescue and Salvage of Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China, led by the Director – General, Mr Wang Zhenliang, visited the MD on May 8 to meet with its management to exchange views on the contingency plan on rescue and salvage.

To enhance passenger awareness of fastening seat belts on highspeed craft plying between Hong Kong and Macau, the MD launched a new round of publicity in March at the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan, the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui and the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal.

The MD and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony 2018 was held on May 7. The MD has presented awards to the ship owners, ship management companies, masters and crews for their support of the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR), outstanding performance in the management of Hong Kong ships and bravery acts on the high seas. The Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Dr Raymond So Wai-man, attended to present the awards of "Highest gross tonnage (GT) on the HKSR in 2017" and "Placed the most GT on the HKSR in 2017" to the COSCO Shipping (Hong Kong) Group. MD's

young officers were also present at the ceremony. Apart from introducing new faces to the industry, they exchanged views with representatives from related stakeholders of the industry.

The MD, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department held the 2018 Safety Afloat Educational Seminar on May 14. The Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Mr Lai Chi-tung, reminded the public to pay special attention to safety when participating in water sport activities. He also appealed to about 160 representatives of the shipping industry, representatives of the water sports industry and the captains or vessel operators, who attended the seminar, to make appropriate preparations before setting sail and navigate carefully during voyage.

To enhance the hygiene conditions of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, the MD conducted a large scale cleansing operation at the site on May 29, 2018.