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HONG KONG
MARITIME NEWS
香港海事通訊

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Brand new videos to promote AMOs and ASoSs

The brand new videos to promote the assistant rank of the professional grades of Marine Department have already been released. The videos engage four newly recruited Assistant Marine Officers (AMOs) and Assistant Surveyors of Ships (ASoSs) who have different seafaring qualifications, namely Mr Angus Wong (holder of Certificate of Competency (Deck Officer) Class 1), Mr Vincent Suen (holder of Certificate of Competency (Deck Officer) Class 3), Mr Raymond Lee (holder of Certificate of Competency (Marine Engineer Officer) Class 1) and Ms Yoyo Chan (holder of Certificate of Competency (Marine Engineer Officer) Class 2).



The videos were produced by the Efficiency Office of the Innovation and Technology Bureau. The team has spent more than three months on the pre-production, selection of officers, script writing, venue arrangement, shooting as well as the post-production. The four officers narrate in person their reasons for joining the maritime industry and applying for the posts in the Department after a few years of seafaring life, as well as their passion and vision for the future. They also share some tips for applying for AMOs and ASoSs, something which should not be missed if you would like to be one of them.





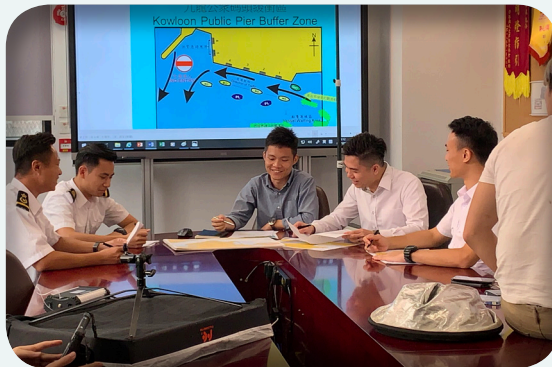
The videos have been uploaded to the thematic webpage “Maritime Industry” of the Department.

Assistant Marine Officers:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/theme/maritime_industry/en/video_amo.html

Assistant Surveyors of Ships:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/theme/maritime_industry/en/video_ass.html



Special thanks to:

Derek Mak (Surveyor of Ships/Cargo Ship Safety)

Yale Lam (Surveyor of Ships/Examiner)

Wong Ying-chuen (Marine Inspector I)

Kim Lam (Marine Inspector II)

Shawn Leung (Marine Inspector II)

Steven Liu (Marine Inspector II)

Kenneth Ng (Marine Inspector II)

Summer Interns realise their dreams at sea



Nine university students spent their summer having internship in Marine Department (MD), working at different divisions and sections. They also paid visits to the Vessel Traffic Centre, the Government Dockyard, and various port facilities, as well as attending the Maritime and Aviation Internship Scheme Cocktail Reception.



Their internship ended with a sharing session cum tea gathering in late-August, joined by the management including the Director of Marine, Miss Agnes Wong; the Deputy Directors, Mr Wong Sai-fat and Mr Freely Cheng; as well as a number of Assistant Directors.



The interns expressed their interest to go seafaring after tasting how the work at the MD was like. They also said that it is their dream to join the Department in the future. They described the Harbour Patrol Section as the “limbs” and the Vessel Traffic Centre as the “eyes” for maintaining navigational safety and order.



During the programme, the interns saw for themselves the Department's efforts in maintaining marine safety. They also expressed their thanks to the management for offering them with such valuable learning opportunities.

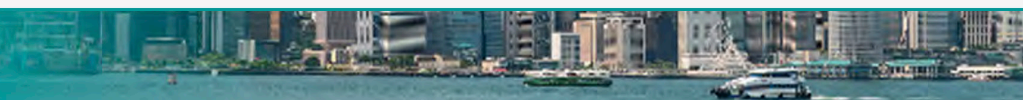
Students encouraged to join the maritime industry



As the old saying goes, “He that travels far knows much” – especially when you want to know more about the maritime industry!



To promote the career opportunities and development of the maritime industry in Hong Kong, the Chief Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr Law Lap-keung, together with two Assistant Marine Officers (AMOs), Mr Ivan Lam and Mr Vincent Suen, shared their own experience with a group of undergraduates who are studying the programme of Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in International Shipping and Transport Logistics in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in mid-September.





Regardless of some perceptions in recent years that Hong Kong's shipping sector is a "sunset industry", Hong Kong retains its competitive edges on ship management, financing, leasing, marine insurance and maritime arbitration, with much potential for further development. At the sharing session, Mr Law explained in details the multiple roles of the maritime industry to let undergraduates know more about the diversity of the posts in the sector.



Ivan and Vincent, who have recently joined the Marine Department as Assistant Marine Officers, felt honoured to share their experience with junior fellows at their alma mater. They also introduced the entry requirements of AMOs, its designated training programme, the scope of duties and career path. The undergraduates were also lucky to have the chance to watch the brand new career promotion video of this professional grade.

The editor attended the sharing session where the undergraduates showed great interest in the talk. Mr Law, Ivan and Vincent were happy to share with them useful information about seafaring and the maritime industry, hoping to give more inspiration to undergraduates for planning their future.





First HK female engineer scales new heights

The Maritime Professional Promotion Federation (MPPF) and other maritime organisations jointly held a press conference, entitled "A Successful Maritime Professional Series", at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum on July 8. The first woman in Hong Kong to qualify as a chief engineer of seagoing vessels, Miss Joanna Kwok, who was one of the speakers, talked about her experience.



Miss Kwok has joined Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited since completion of the Higher Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education. Following her unfailing efforts over the past few years, she has finally achieved professional success in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Her experience has conveyed a significant and positive message to the shipping industry in Hong Kong and consolidated awareness among young people on vocational and professional education and training.



The maritime and shipping industry remains one of the most male-dominated working environments. Joanna is one of the few young women in Hong Kong who overcomes the gender gap and lots of challenges. Her dream as the first Hong Kong woman to qualify as a chief engineer finally comes true.





Public Cargo Working Areas

In this issue, Hong Kong Maritime News features Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs) managed by Marine Department (MD). The editor interviewed the Senior Assistant Shipping Master (Cargo Handling), Mr Chung Yau-tai, and found out more about the history and business operations of PCWAs.



History Development of PCWAs

Before the 1970s, river trade operators and mid-stream operators could load and unload their cargo along any public waterfront. Some operators would monopolise certain waterfronts by being the first operator to lay claim to a berth for cargo handling activities. It was rumoured that those with access to berths began to charge others for the right to use their berths; but not all would comply and some would navigate to open areas and exacerbated traffic problems near the waterfronts. As these activities increased, the need to regulate the traffic became apparent and this led to the Government formulating a policy to regulate cargo handling activities at public waterfronts areas .



In 1974, the Port Control (Cargo Working Areas) Ordinance (Cap. 81) and its subsidiary regulations were enacted to control the use of waterfront areas, with the commissioning of the first PCWA in Wan Chai.

To strike a balance between facilitation of operators' businesses and needs of district developments, at present there are six PCWAs operating in Hong Kong at New Yau Ma Tei, Rambler Channel, the Stonecutters Island, Chai Wan, Western District and Tuen Mun respectively. Most of them are located at or near typhoon shelters. The total seafrontage of the existing PCWAs is 4 852 metres.



Business operations of PCWAs

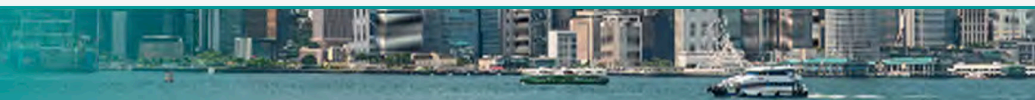
PCWAs are widely known as one of the important components of the port operation system in Hong Kong, serving general cargoes and river trade cargoes. Mr Chung said that goods arriving PCWAs through mid-stream operation are transferred to local retail stores after being unloaded. According to the Department's statistics, the total container throughput of PCWAs was around 5.45 million tons in 2018. PCWAs therefore forms an essential part of the goods supply chain for logistics and retail industries in Hong Kong.



MD has been working to enhance the efficiency of cargo handling in PCWAs. Since 1998, the berths adjacent to PCWAs were allocated to operators through a restricted tendering exercise. In addition, to facilitate traffic flow and reduce the queuing time of goods vehicles at the PCWA entrance, an Octopus Carpark System (OCPS) was installed at four PCWAs – Western District, Chai Wan, Tuen Mun and Rambler Channel in the year of 2016 while the OCPS was also installed at the Stonecutters Island and New Yau Ma Tei in the year of 2006 and 2010 respectively.

Mr Chung noted that certain specified berths are allowed to handle dirty cargoes, e.g. waste paper, as well as sand, gravel and cement in bulk. Berth operators may secure their vessels alongside a berth within their designated area, and rent the operating area adjacent to their berths (i.e. the working apron and the back-up area) for handling cargoes, setting up container offices, mobile shelters and operating mobile shore cranes, stacking and depositing cargoes, and carrying out other activities relating to cargo handling.

The land side is divided into three portions, including (1) working apron: the area adjacent to the seawall which is mainly used for loading and unloading cargoes to and from vessels and goods vehicles; (2) traffic lane: normally the middle part of PCWA area; and (3) back-up area: the operating area close to the boundary fence of PCWA which is mainly used for accommodating container offices and short stay cargoes.





Generally speaking, a Marine Inspector (I) is responsible for the daily operations of PCWA, including the management of cargo handling related activities in PCWAs; enforcement of relevant laws and regulations as well as guidelines; supervision and counter-checking of the daily revenue collected at the area, etc. Mr Chung, being one of the two Senior Assistant Shipping Masters (SASMs) who plays the managerial and supervisory roles at six PCWAs, has been serving the Department for more than 18 years. He shared with the editor that he joined the Department as Marine Inspector (II) since 2001 and transferred to become SASM in 2018. He said that Marine Inspectors focus on frontline operations whereas SASMs are responsible for supervisory duties. Mr Chung has therefore decided to take up the new challenges, and to try his best to serve the public.



What's more: PCWA's special makeover

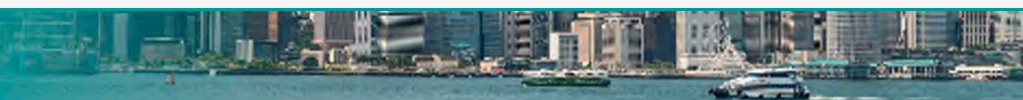
Given the busy operations in PCWAs every day, have you also noticed the “special mission” of the one located at Chai Wan?

Mr Chung said that all PCWAs are open daily from 0700 hours to 2100 hours except the 1st and 2nd day of the Lunar New Year. Every year, Chai Wan PCWA calls for a pause in cargo activities on the weekend before the Dragon Boat Festival, and devotes their best effort in the preparation work for the annual Eastern District Dragon Boat Race. Within just two days, the PCWA can amazingly be transformed into a Dragon boat racing venue and have fun with all the participants!



Government's measures to support enterprises

The Financial Secretary announced in mid-August measures to support enterprises and residents. Starting from October 1, 50% of the berths' fees payable by the operators of all PCWAs will be waived for six months. Meanwhile, “Vehicle Entry Ticket” fees of the first hour and “Operation Area Permit” fees will also be waived for 12 months. The above helping measures are welcomed by the operators.





STH visited London to promote maritime collaboration

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan, together with members of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB) and representatives of the maritime industry, visited London, the United Kingdom (UK), during September 10 to 13 to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre and maritime services hub.

During his stay in London, Mr Chan first called on the UK Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Grant Shapps, to exchange views on facilitating the development of maritime industry. He then attended the London International Shipping Week Conference and delivered a keynote speech at a plenary session of the conference. He also met the Shipping Minister of the UK, Ms Nusrat Ghani, and representatives of Maritime London, to exchange views on the collaboration between Hong Kong and London in promoting the maritime industry. Afterwards, Mr Chan met representatives of the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs and its Member Clubs to promote the high value-added maritime services of Hong Kong. Before concluding his visit, Mr Chan also met the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr Kitack Lim.



Mr Chan delivered a keynote speech at a plenary session of the London International Shipping Week Conference.



Photo shows Mr Chan calling on the UK Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Grant Shapps (left).



Photo shows Mr Chan meeting the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr Kitack Lim (left).

Hong Kong Maritime Week

Since its launch in 2016, the Hong Kong Maritime Week (HKMW), organised by the HKMPB, has been a successful annual event among the maritime community in Hong Kong, participated enthusiastically and supported staunchly by the industry. This year, the HKMW will come to its fourth edition and will be held from November 17 to 23, 2019. The week-long events will cover eight themes, including ship finance, ship management, marine insurance, maritime law and arbitration, maritime technology, port and logistics, education and career, as well as shipping and maritime. Through these intensive and multifarious maritime activities, it is hoped to raise public awareness of the economic contribution made by the port and maritime sectors, enhance young people's understanding of the maritime industry to attract them to pursue a career in the industry, and to promote Hong Kong as a preferred base for maritime businesses.

For details of the activities, please visit <https://www.hkmw.hk/en/activities.html>





Departmental News



MD and the Macao Marine and Water Bureau held a meeting on maritime safety in Macao in September. The Director of Marine, Miss Agnes Wong and MD officers met the Director of Macao Marine and Water Bureau, Ms Wong Soi-man, and her delegation to discuss how to further enhance communication and cooperation on maritime safety issues between Hong Kong and Macao.

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



Two annual marine pollution response joint exercises, this year code-named Oilex 2019 and the Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Exercise 2019, were held simultaneously on October 22 off the coast of Lamma Island to test marine pollution responses of government departments in the event of pollution caused by oil spillage and the spread of HNS in Hong Kong waters.

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