

Students' visits to the Marine Department to learn more about the maritime industry

In November 2019, Marine Department (MD) arranged visiting activities for the Hong Kong Sea School (HKSS) and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) to let students know more about the operation of the Department and the career opportunities in the maritime industry. It is hoped that such activities will arouse their interest in joining the industry in future.

Hong Kong Sea School's "All-Rounded Learning Week"

The Hong Kong Sea School organises its annual school activity "All-Rounded Learning Week" in November each year. By arranging various activities, students can learn more about the maritime industry and develop their interest in having a career in the industry. Last year was the second time where MD helped arrange part of the activities for the students, including boat tours covering the route from Central to Tung Lung Chau in which some 30 students joined.

Throughout the tour, Marine Inspectors (MIs) on board introduced their daily patrol and law enforcement duties, as well as different harbour facilities and vessel types. Students seized the opportunity to actively raise questions and participate in the interactive activities, such as using the Very High Frequency radio to communicate with the ferry terminal's control room for the first time, and role-playing on how a MI carried out their routine inspections on board the vessels. Some students said that they found the tour very fruitful and expressed their keen interest in joining maritime industry in future.

To review the activity highlights, please click this link to watch the videos on Transport and Housing Bureau's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=544569206394655>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=609772923123525>

Visit of PolyU students and lecturers

A group of students and lecturers from the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), accompanied by members of a chamber of commerce, visited the Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC) and the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) of MD on November 21 last year.

Mr Poon Ka-tik, Acting Senior Marine Officer, briefed the visitors of the background and daily operations of the VTC. He also introduced the third generation VTS system, which has raised the efficiency of monitoring marine traffic to ensure navigational safety in the Hong Kong waters.

In addition, Mr Mark Lau, Assistant Marine Officer, briefed the visitors of the functions of the MRCC and shared some real search and rescue cases to enhance visitors' understanding of the role of the Department and its emergency responses when marine incidents happened in the waters under its purview.

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<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=441243170089639>

Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019

The Hong Kong Maritime Week (HKMW) 2019, organised by Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, was held on November 17-23, 2019. With staunch support and contribution from the co-organisers (the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and the Hong Kong Maritime Museum) and partners (the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Invest Hong Kong), as well as a number of local and overseas maritime bodies and companies, the Maritime Week was successfully held with a total of 37 events staged, including conferences, forums, seminars, corporate receptions, ceremonies, visits, competitions and exhibitions.

HKMW 2019 showcased Hong Kong as an international maritime centre providing quality maritime and port services, as well as fostered solidarity of the Hong Kong maritime cluster to support the further development of the industry.

On November 21, 2019, the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, also made a speech at the Hong Kong Shipowners Association Annual Cocktail Reception and International Chamber of Shipping (China) Liaison Office Launch Ceremony. He said that the decision of the International Chamber of Shipping to have its first ever Liaison Office based in Hong Kong is a clear recognition of China's emergence as one of the world's leading maritime nations, and also Hong Kong's superb connectivity with the global shipping community.

Please visit www.hkmw.hk for more activity reviews!

Meeting with the Secretary of the Tokyo MOU Secretariat

In November last year, the Director of Marine, Miss Agnes Wong, and the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat, met with the Secretary of Tokyo MOU Secretariat, Mr Hideo Kubota, to promote the development of the maritime industry in Hong Kong.

During the meeting, Mr Luis Shi, Assistant Director of Marine (Shipping), presented the organisation and principal functions of MD, as well as statistics relating to Hong Kong-registered vessels and Port State Control inspection. Mr Huang Jihe, General Manager/Vessel Traffic Services, introduced the functions of the Vessel Traffic Centre as well as the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

Mr Kubota shared the challenges faced by the Japanese Government in attracting students to join the maritime field in order to ensure the sustainability of the maritime industry. In return, Miss Wong shared the Department's experience in promoting the maritime industry among local students.

Miss Wong also mentioned that the Department planned to set up a Regional Desk in Tokyo in the fourth quarter of this year to provide supporting services and promote the Hong Kong Shipping Register. Mr Kubota welcomed this initiative.

Departmental News

To strengthen the provision and usage of lifejackets on local vessels and enhance marine safety during major events at sea, new legislative requirements came into effect on December 23, 2019. All local vessels are required to carry suitable lifejackets, the quantity of which should be not less than the total number of persons the vessel is licensed to carry. During major events at sea, children on board must wear lifejackets at all times and a list of persons on board should be kept by the coxswain of the vessel for emergency purposes. Coxswains, crew members and passengers must comply with the new legislative requirements.

MD held the Navigational Safety Seminar 2020 on January 16 to enhance the awareness of navigational safety among members of the industry. The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Wong Sai-fat, reminded coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels that they have to fully comply with the marine legislation.

Activity highlights:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=492716411390760>

In addition to the daily work of collecting and scavenging floating refuse, MD conducted a large scale cleansing operation at Aberdeen West and South Typhoon Shelter on December 19-20, 2019 to step up efforts to keep the sea clean. Promotional leaflets were also distributed by MD's officers to remind the public to keep the harbour clean.

A joint fire drill exercise was conducted on January 24 by MD, the Fire Services Department and the Marine Police at Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter to test the response of government departments in case of fire on ships in the Hong Kong waters.