

Hong Kong Shipping Registry Regional Desks– Gateway to the Global Shipping Network

To better support shipowners who station overseas, the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) of the Marine Department (MD) is in the process of setting up Regional Desks (RDs) in major international maritime centres, with Shanghai, Singapore and London being Phase 1 of the development. RDs can provide shipowners/operators of Hong Kong registered vessels in these areas with more prompt and direct support in terms of ship registration, maritime conventions compliance and in handling of emergency matters. The RDs will also enhance the regulatory role of HKSR by providing ship surveys in these busy ports. The Shanghai and London RDs commenced operation respectively in Q4 2019 while the Singapore RD commenced operation in Q2 2020.

Since its establishment, the Shanghai RD has succeeded in completing more than 20 quality control audits for Hong Kong registered vessels. Mr. Xiang Da-tian, Regional Head of Shanghai RD, attended 40 official meetings with the shipping sector, and joined trips of the Economic and Trade Office (ETO) to Nanjing, Qingdao and Ningbo to promote HKSR. During the visit to Qingdao between 27 and 29 May, Mrs. Aron Laura Liang, Director of Shanghai ETO, introduced the Shanghai RD of HKSR to the guests in an investment promotion seminar, and encouraged shipping companies to expand their shipping registration in Hong Kong, and utilise services provided by the Shanghai RD.

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Singapore RD completed 11 vessel quality control audits. Mr. Philip Ho, Regional Head of Singapore RD, attended 10 meetings with recognised organisations (ROs) and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) to establish better network, which will facilitate better cooperation in future. More visits have been scheduled to meet local shipowners and operators of Hong Kong registered vessels .

The London RD is under the leadership of Mr. Chung Siu-man, Marine Adviser/Regional Head (London). His team has been strengthened with two newly appointed Deputy Regional Heads, i.e. Mr. Gary Tang and Mr. Derek Mak. Every

meeting of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) was attended in order to keep abreast of the latest developments in maritime conventions and amendments. They will continue to take an active role in the IMO's policy formulation process to ensure Hong Kong's view will be heard at international meetings. The team serves as a bridge between MD of Hong Kong and IMO for sharing of the latest updates on policies.

The positive feedback received during the startup period for RD is encouraging. The groundwork for Phase 2 development is being laid to expand HKSR's service coverage.

Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau signed Agreement on Maritime Cooperation in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China held a conference on the development of maritime services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in Guangzhou on August 22, which was attended by Mr. Liu Xiaoming, Vice Minister of Transport; Mr. Chen Liangxian, Vice-Governor of the People's Government of Guangdong Province; Mr. Cao Desheng, Director-General of the China Maritime Safety Administration; and Ms. Susana Wong, Director of the Marine and Water Bureau of Macao. An Agreement on Maritime Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area (Agreement) was signed among the China Maritime Safety Administration, the Marine Department (MD) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Marine and Water Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Miss Agnes Wong, the Director of Marine, joined the event through online video conferencing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The Agreement aims at establishing a collaboration mechanism among the three parties to facilitate the implementation of joint maritime projects or events as well as providing excellent maritime services and safety measures to boost the maritime and economic development of the Greater Bay Area. Adopting the development concept of "synergistic, innovative, safe and green", the three parties are committed to jointly develop the Greater Bay Area as a leading and advanced maritime management model

within the country and around the world.

According to the Agreement, one of the cooperation areas is to develop the services for maritime economy. During the conference, the Director of Marine highlighted the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong- Macao Greater Bay Area (Plan), with Hong Kong positioned as an international maritime centre; supports Hong Kong to develop high-end maritime services such as ship management, ship leasing, ship finance, marine insurance, maritime law and dispute resolution services, and provide such services to Mainland and Macao enterprises. As a member of the Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government would continue to proactively develop Hong Kong's position as a high value-added maritime services centre and a transshipment hub in the Asia Pacific region, so as to contribute to the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The Agreement also covers cooperation among the three parties, which includes enhancement of water transport safety, promotion of green shipping development, improvement of navigation safety, coordination and cooperation in maritime affairs, and development of innovative monitoring services.

In terms of promotion of maritime cultural exchange, the Director of Marine mentioned the importance of cultivating talents, which is crucial and important to the development of the shipping industry in the Greater Bay Area. She suggested the three parties enhance collaboration in training and talent exchange.

At the same time, MD hopes to enhance the international status of the Greater Bay Area's maritime services through joint participation in international and regional maritime co-operation and exchange. The Department will also foster closer collaboration among the maritime authorities of the Greater Bay Area in a bid to strengthen the international competitiveness of the Area's maritime industry and administration.

Summer Interns “Sea” Bright Future in Maritime Industry

15 students from tertiary institutions joined the Marine Department (MD)'s

Summer Internship Programme 2020 (Programme) and were assigned to work at different divisions and sections for a taste of the work of Marine Officers and Surveyors of Ships. Apart from local students, such as interns from the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Department of Supply Chain and Information Management of the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, there were also overseas students participating in the Programme this year, including those from the Department of Engineering Science, the University of Oxford and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College London, United Kingdom.

A briefing session for the Programme was held on 10 July, where interns were given an introduction to the Hong Kong Government's organisational structure, followed by a glimpse of the maritime industry and experience sharing by two mentors, i.e. Mr. Matthew Shu Bong-tai, Senior Surveyor of Ships (SSoS), and Mr. Francis Wong, Assistant Surveyor of Ships (ASoS).

At the briefing session, Matthew explained in details the background of the maritime industry and vividly shared his seafarer's life on board with relevant photos and videos. Francis, who joined MD as ASoS last year, introduced the entry requirements of the grade, its exclusive training programme, scope of duties and promotion ladder. He also shared his work experience in the Passenger Ships Safety Section and the Government New Construction Section. All interns expressed keen interest in working on board and in the work at MD. Matthew and Francis were delighted to share with the interns those useful information on seafaring and the maritime industry, with hopes of further inspiring them in planning their future career.

Harbour Patrol Section

In order to combat excessive dark smoke emission from vessels, the Harbour Patrol Section (HPS) conducted a special operation on August 26 in Victoria Harbour. Two summer interns, Mr. Calvin Ko and Ms. Jasmine Chan, participated in the operation. Before setting off, the Marine Inspectors (MIs) on board taught the interns how to wear life jackets properly and introduced to them the navigational and communication instruments, such as radar and VHF radio.

When the team arrived in Victoria Harbour, the MIs explained to the interns the objectives of the special operation and its relevant regulations. The interns then learnt how to use the Ringelmann Chart for determining whether there was any excessive dark smoke emission from vessels with a view to understanding the law enforcement duties of the HPS and relevant procedures. On the same patrol day, the interns also learnt to detect the speed of vessels with a laser gun in order to combat speeding. Both interns considered their participation in that special operation in person a valuable and unforgettable experience.

Government New Construction Section

In July, some of the summer interns paid a technical visit to the Government Dockyard (GD), with a profound guidance in simple terms from MD officers. Mr. Erik Cheung, one of the participants, seized the invaluable chance for a hands-on experience in GD work, and studied the inspections conducted on various vessels, such as the inmates transporting ship of the Correctional Services Department, as well as the procedures of removing engines from vessels. At the end of the visit, the interns were drenched not only in a sea of knowledge about ship operations, repair and maintenance, but also with the sweat of efforts, Erik said. Following the GD tour, arrangements were made for five interns to tag along with some Surveyor of Ships for visiting a marine engine service support centre in Kwai Chung, where they observed on site the application, production and maintenance of marine diesel engines.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the interns were arranged to work-from-home since mid-July. Erik stated however that he could still learn various aspects of the work related to the maritime industry through MD officers' remote guidance, including witnessing sea trials conducted in the US via video conferences, which was indeed an unprecedented experience to him.

Departmental News

As continued efforts to uphold the quality of Hong Kong registered ships amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marine Department (MD) organised 4 virtual safety

seminars in August. The seminars, conducted in both Putonghua and English, reached out to more than 200 shipping professionals in the industry worldwide. Shanghai, Singapore and London Regional Desks also made their debut. The main subjects of the seminars were compliance of the Maritime Labour Convention, quality performance of Hong Kong registered ships, the MD's latest technical policies, development of Hong Kong maritime legislation and international maritime conventions. Participants were welcome to raise questions throughout the seminars for exchange of ideas. The seminar presentation materials have been uploaded to the MD website afterwards.

Link:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/rscs.html

A clean-up operation was jointly conducted by the MD, the Environmental Protection Department, and a group of volunteers at Shelter Island, Sai Kung on 3 September to collect refuse. A total of 91 bags of refuse were collected.

During the operation, the volunteers entered the caves on the island in canoes, collected the refuse and passed it on to the transportation boats arranged by MD. The refuse was conveyed in batches to the MD's refuse collectors and subsequently transferred to a Marine Refuse Collection Point for centralised handling.

Ms Ip Tak-chun, Clerical Officer of the Information Technology Management Section / Administration Branch and Mr Li Shu-fun, Bang, Workman II of the Ferry Terminals Section / Planning and Services Division of MD, are awarded the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation Award 2020 for their consistently outstanding performance. We are glad that the valuable contributions made by Ms Ip and Mr Li have been recognised and commended, and extend to them our warmest congratulations.

Two annual marine pollution response joint exercises, code-named Oilex 2020 and Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) 2020, were conducted by MD and various government departments on October 28 off Pearl Island, Tuen Mun to test their marine pollution responses in the event of a spillage of oil and HNS in Hong Kong waters.

Marine knowledge -Meanings of international maritime signal flags

OSCAR

Man overboard

WHISKEY

I require medical assistance

DELTA

Keep clear of me, I am manoeuvring with difficulty