

## **New Director of Marine**

Ms Carol Yuen assumed the post of Director of Marine on 1 February, succeeding Miss Agnes Wong, who has assumed the post of Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)/ Director of Housing.

Ms Yuen said that she will strive to lead the Department to promote excellence in marine services and safeguard maritime safety. The Department will also continue to enhance and promote the services of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, including setting up more Regional Desks, so as to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre.

## **Maritime Safety Academy: Common Lifejacket**

The brand-new Common Lifejacket promotional videos, leaflet and poster were officially released in November 2020 on various platforms! Apart from showing on local passenger ferries with the provision of Common Lifejackets, members of the public may also view the latest promotional videos and information on the Marine Department (MD)'s website or via scanning the QR printed on the Common Lifejacket poster and leaflet.

The MD has been enhancing the regulatory regime for local vessels by enacting relevant legislation and implementing marine safety enhancement measures. These measures include enhancing the lifejacket provision requirement on local vessels. To this end, the Government introduced an amendment to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation which requires all local vessels to carry suitable lifejackets for its crew and passengers, the quantity of which must be not less than the total number of persons which the vessel is licensed to carry; as well as the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulation 2019, which requires children on board to wear lifejackets at all times during major events at sea.

To assist the industry in meeting this requirement, the MD commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) to develop a suitable one-size-fits-all lifejacket for both adults and children, now known as the Common Lifejacket. The PolyU research team designed the Common Lifejacket based on an adult-sized yoke-type lifejacket for emergency use, by improving and modifying the design so that it would fit anyone aged 2 or above, with different height and weight between 15 and 120 kg. The novel lifejacket can be secured on a child user with three straps: a Velcro neck strap to narrow the neck opening for fitting with a child's head and keeping the face above water, a crotch strap and a waist strap to tighten the lifejacket around the user's body and to prevent it from slipping upward. The foam blocks on both sides of the lifejacket are of different thickness, of which the resultant difference in buoyancy can turn the user to a face-up position in water. In addition,

the lifejacket's collar provides support for the wearer's neck and head.

The Common Lifejacket has been proved to be a success, apart from receiving a Patent for the original design, it has also been accredited by the European Union for meeting the requirements of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). The Common Lifejacket is an achievement of the long-term communication and cooperation among the Government, the shipping industry and the research institute.

The Common Lifejacket incorporates various novel safety features that are new to the public. The MD has made two promotional videos, leaflet and poster to increase public awareness of this new product and its correct usage. In line with the Government's practice of social inclusivity, the MD has also made different versions of the video for visually and hearing impaired persons. The videos are now being shown on major ferry routes. We hope you enjoy the show.

### **Fun fact about Common Lifejacket**

Lifejacket has been a life-saving tool for humans at sea since the 18th century, when a member from Royal National Lifeboat Institution invented the first cork lifejacket in the world, which weighed up to 25 pounds but floated well. Throughout all these years, people have been researching on lifejackets to cater for various special usage and needs, in order to improve its function of ensuring safety of life.

### **Marine Department honours outstanding shipping companies**

On 8 December, 2020, the Marine Department (MD) presented awards to companies of Hong Kong registered ships for their outstanding performance in the pursuit of high standards over the past year, and to masters and crews to commend their bravery on the high seas. Miss Agnes Wong, the then Director of Marine, expressed her gratitude for the support rendered by these shipping companies to the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) and for the seafarers' contribution to maritime safety. Representatives of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association also attended the ceremony to extend their congratulations to the awardees.

The list of awardees is as follows:

#### **Award for the company with the highest GT on the HKSR in 2019**

- The China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited

#### **Award for the company which placed the highest GT on the HKSR during the year**

- 2019 The China Merchants Energy Shipping Co. Ltd.

#### **Award for outstanding port state control (PSC) performance in 2019**

(in alphabetical order)

- Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited
- Cosco Shipping Bulk Co., Ltd.
- Cosco Shipping Specialized Carriers Co., Ltd.
- Fleet Management Limited
- Hong Kong Ming Wah Shipping Co., Ltd.
- Maersk A/S
- Orient Overseas Container Line Limited
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- Seaspans Ship Management Ltd
- Shanghai Ocean Shipping Co. Ltd
- Sinotrans Ship Management Limited
- SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co. Ltd.

### **Award for Bravery for the year 2019**

(in alphabetical order)

- Shenzhen Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd., on behalf of all crew members of MV "MINGDE"
  - The China Navigation Company Pte. Ltd., on behalf of all crew members of MV "KWANGSI"
- (Award presented by Regional Head (Singapore), MD)

### **Departmental News**

The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Ms Mable Chan, visited the MD on 13 November, 2020 to familiarise herself with the department's work. She visited the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, the Central Marine Office, the Vessel Traffic Centre and the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre located at the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal, followed by touring around the Government Dockyard including the Marine Department Training Centre and the Hydrographic Office, to learn more about the work of frontline officers.

Meetings on maritime safety were held through online video conferencing among the Maritime Safety Administration of People's Republic of China, the Macao Marine and Water Bureau and the Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) on 25 November, 2020. The three parties discussed and exchanged views on items including maritime cooperation projects, ship management, management of safety at sea, and using innovation and technology to enhance maritime development. Officials attending the meetings included Mr. Cao Desheng, Director-General of the China Maritime Safety Administration; Ms. Susana Wong, Director of the Marine and Water Bureau of Macao; Miss Agnes Wong, the then Director of Marine; as well as other relevant representatives of the three parties.

In order to comprehensively enhance the exchanges and cooperation on

marine investigations between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and to promote a sustainable safe and stable navigation environment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration of People's Republic of China and the MD co-hosted the online signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on Shenzhen-Hong Kong Marine Investigation Innovation Office cum Shenzhen-Hong Kong Marine Investigation Technology Conference on December 10, 2020.

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) promotes the safety of life and property at sea, as well as the protection of the marine environment by establishing international standards on training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers. The IMO adopts resolutions from time to time to amend the STCW Convention to ensure that seafarers possess the necessary qualification and skills for operating ships with new technological and operational practices. In November 2020, the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO, at its 102nd session, endorsed the report of Hong Kong, China in accordance with the regulation of STCW Convention, and confirmed that Hong Kong, China continued to give full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.

The International Chamber of Shipping published the Shipping Industry Flag State Performance Table 2020/2021 on 21 January 2021, assessing the performance of nearly 120 flag states or regions. The performance indicators include the Port State Control records, compliance with international maritime conventions, use of Recognized Organizations (RO) in compliance with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) RO Code, average age of fleet, submission of reports to the IMO and International Labour Organization, attendance at the IMO meetings and participation of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme. Amongst the ten largest ship registry in the world (by gross tonnage), covering more than 70% of the world fleet, five have excellent performance in compliance, i.e. with all positive results and no negative indicators. Hong Kong, China is one of them.

The MD launched its enhanced website (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/home.html>) in December 2020 to enhance user experience and facilitate easy and convenient search of information by users. In addition to its streamlined content for smooth navigation, the website also adopts a responsive web design which can automatically adjust its webpage layout according to the device to ensure better user experience in browsing the website using a desktop computer, a tablet or a mobile phone.

In addition to the provision of daily marine refuse collection and scavenging services, the MD conducted a large scale cleansing operation at Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter on 18-19 November, 2020 to step up efforts to keep the sea clean.

Promotional leaflets were also distributed by the MD's officers to remind the public to keep the harbour clean.

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marine Department produced a set of promotional and publicity materials on navigational safety for distribution to the trade in lieu of an onsite Navigational Safety Seminar this year. The set of materials includes a DVD and pamphlets featuring topics related to the new maritime legislation and maritime safety. Members of the public can also download the materials from the Department's website as follows:

[https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/materials/publicity\\_material.html](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/materials/publicity_material.html)