

Hong Kong Sea School's students acquire maritime knowledge in "Life Wide Learning Week"

The "Life Wide Learning Week" organised by the Hong Kong Sea School enhances students' understanding of career opportunities in the maritime industry, and helps them plan their career through field studies and learning activities arranged by various government departments and maritime organisations. The Marine Department (MD) supported the event once again last November and arranged a two-day program for about 40 Secondary Four students during the Learning Week.

Right on the kick off day, MD arranged the students to visit the Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC) and the Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) to get an idea about MD's work on navigational safety and maritime search and rescue. They then proceeded to the Government Dockyard (GD). Apart from learning about the functions of the Government Fleet Division, the students also had opportunities to operate a full mission ship simulator at the MD Training Centre under the guidance of our staff to understand more about the importance of navigational safety.

On another day of the Learning Week, MD organised an oil spill response exercise on Lamma Island, and a briefing on marine refuse cleansing services for the students. During that educational trip, the students learned about the causes for oil spills, techniques to handle oil pollution and process of marine refuse collection, as well as the services provided by MD and different job opportunities in the maritime industry, thereby broadening their horizons and helping them to plan their career.

Besides, the students joined a vessel tour from Central to Tsing Yi, passing spots like Kwai-Tsing Container Terminals and Rambler Channel Typhoon Shelter, to visit Hong Kong waters. Our Assistant Marine Officer and Marine Inspector (MI) on board acquainted students with their daily patrol and law enforcement work, and introduced to them different harbour facilities, vessel types, etc., so that the students could experience the operation at sea. During the voyage, students listened attentively to the explanation on how a routine inspection on board was conducted, and asked follow up questions proactively. At the end, they unanimously agreed that they had benefited greatly from the activities and expressed their desire to join the maritime industry in the future.

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

<https://fb.watch/9ViAH1cc-y/>

<https://fb.watch/9ViA00PZWJ/>

Marine Department goes all out to fight the epidemic

First batch of vegetables smoothly delivered from Mainland to HK by sea

With the strong support from the Mainland authorities, the Task Force of Supplies from the Mainland (Task Force) led by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr. Frank Chan Fan, co-ordinated smoothly with Chu Kong Shipping Enterprises (CKS) to arrange shipments of supply by river trade vessels. The first batch of goods, containing three tonnes of vegetables in 200 boxes, was delivered from Lian Hua Shan Port, Guangdong Province by sea to the New Yau Ma Tei Public Cargo Working Area (NYPCWA) in Hong Kong in the early morning on 19 February 2022.

To enable the public to buy the batch of fresh vegetables in markets on the same day, the Marine Department (MD) opened NYPCWA at 4:00 am that day, so that personnel of relevant departments including the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department could conduct food sample testing, cargo examination and shipment clearance early. Local goods vehicles then delivered the vegetables from NYPCWA to wholesale food markets and other retail points immediately for further distribution and sales.

The Senior Marine Officer/ Cargo Handling, Mr. Lu Jian-jian, said that it was an honour for him to work together with other MD colleagues to assist the Task Force in stabilising the supply of goods in Hong Kong. To ensure the smooth delivery of vegetables to Hong Kong, the Chief Assistant Secretary (Transport) of the Transport and Housing Bureau, Mr. Law Lap-keung; and MD's General Manager/ Services, Mr. Warren Li Kin-pong, inspected NYPCWA beforehand for making specific arrangements on venue set-up. In addition, the Cargo Handling Section of MD issued a night working permit to CKS in advance, and liaised with the electric power company to urgently connect electricity supply to the CFS's container office located at NYPCWA.

In the small hours of 19 February 2022, the Assistant Director of Marine/

Planning and Services, Mr. Tony Chan Cheuk-sang; Mr. Lu Jian-jian; and Assistant Marine Officer/ Cargo Handling, Mr. Ng Chi-hang also arrived at NYPCWA to ensure that the first operation was smooth. MD will continue to provide support to facilitate delivery of supplies from the Mainland to Hong Kong by sea.

‘Restriction-testing declaration’ operation

In response to the rapidly changing epidemic situation, the Government conducted restriction-testing declaration (RTD) operations in various districts. To join the concerted efforts to fight the virus, 50 staff members from MD participated in an RTD operation in Tung Chung with various government departments under the coordination of the Home Affairs Department in late January.

Senior Marine Officer/ Quality Assurance and Development, Mr. Jiang Gui-fu, was responsible for crowd control on different floors in the operation. Although he was a little bit concerned about the risk of infection, he felt obliged to work with his colleagues in the frontline to fight against the virus.

Senior Assistant Shipping Master/ South, Ms. Tina Kwan Mei-Ki, also joined the operation and was mainly responsible for distributing quarantine wristbands to the residents who had completed the nucleic acid tests and registration procedures. She said that the operation might look simple, but in fact the division of labour was finely defined. Colleagues concerned were required to record the number of household members in each unit on the floor. Besides, they were tasked to divert people flow for undertaking the tests. All tasks were interrelated and indispensable. Knowing the huge manpower demand for RTD operations and the tight medical manpower, she decided to go to the front line to help with the anti-epidemic work after assessing her own family situation.

Also joining the operation was MD’s Senior Clerical Officer (General), Mr. Eric Cheng Chi-hung, who took care of related administrative work in lining up the MD team. He said that the operation strengthened the bonding among MD colleagues, “Even though we did not know each other well before the operation, we worked as a team and helped one another. Experienced colleagues shared their experience of donning personal protective equipment and using rapid test kits.” He was delighted to be part of such a meaningful operation.

Marine Department honours outstanding shipping companies and seafarers

On 4 November 2021, the Marine Department (MD) presented awards to companies of Hong Kong-registered ships in recognition for their outstanding performance in the pursuit of high standards over the past year, and to seafarers to commend their bravery to save life on the high seas. Ms. Carol Yuen, the Director of Marine, expressed her gratitude for the support rendered by the shipping companies to the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSAR) and for the seafarers' contribution to maritime safety. She also thanked seafarers for performing their duties with dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 gross tonnage (GT) on the HKSAR by end 2020

- The China COSCO SHIPPING Corporation Limited

Award for the company which placed the most GT on the HKSAR in year 2020

- ICBC Financial Leasing Company Limited

Ship crossing the 130 million GT milestone on the HKSAR

- Evergreen Marine (Hong Kong) Limited (m.v. "Ever Forward")

Award for outstanding port state control (PSC) performance in year 2020 (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.
- Ocean Longevity Shipping & Management Co., Ltd.
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- Seaspan Ship Management Ltd.
- Shanghai Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd.
- Sinotrans Ship Management Limited
- SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

- Wah Kwong Ship Management (HK) Ltd

Award for Bravery for the year 2020 (in alphabetical order)

- HMC Shipmanagement Co., Ltd. on behalf of all the crew members of m.v. “Ocean Ang”
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited on behalf of all the crew members of m.v. “Gharapuri Island”
- Seaspan Ship Management Ltd. on behalf of all the crew members of m.v. “COSCO Malaysia”

Award for Seafarers Combating COVID-19

The rampant COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to the maritime industry, especially the frontline seafarers. Despite border closures, travel restrictions and infectious risk, seafarers have battled against all odds to keep the seaborne cargo supply chain running smoothly, which include the conveyance of emergency medical supplies, essential food and anti-epidemic items. In recognition of their indispensable role in the vital global supply chains and to ensure safe crew changes, Hong Kong together with 45 Member States of the International Maritime Organisation designated seafarers as “key workers” in late 2020.

There is no doubt that the high-quality and safe maritime transportation services provided by the Hong Kong-registered fleet is attributed to the perseverance of our frontline seafarers. To extend our gratitude to seafarers for their commitment to work selflessly as a team during the pandemic, MD presented the “Award for Seafarers Combating COVID-19” at the presentation ceremony of awards for outstanding shipping companies and seafarers last year.

In July 2021, MD invited the industry to nominate seafarers who showed courage, resilience, selflessness or flexibility under difficult situation of pandemic, in ensuring the safety of people and ships as well as maintaining the uninterrupted supply chain by good teamwork on board.

There were around 100 entries this year and our selection committee had a hard time choosing the winners. The entries covered the great resilience of seafarers in dealing with emergencies under the pandemic pressure, like smooth handling of crew change and supply on board; successfully implementing appropriate quarantine arrangements and anti-epidemic measures to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19; creatively adopting special work arrangements to ensure onboard work

safety and environmental protection under the pandemic situation; other cases also include seafarers going the extra mile to help colleagues affected by the pandemic and demonstrating positive attitude in leading other seafarers to combat the virus.

We congratulate the 5 winners and wish all seafarers a healthy and happy 2022.

The list of awardees is as follows: (in alphabetical order)

- Second Officer Mr. Joseph George Furness of m.v. “MAERSK CASABLANCA”
- Captain LI Hai of m.v. “ISABELA ISLAND”
- Captain MIAO Yi of m.v. “JOSCO CHANGZHOU”
- Captain ZHENG Changming of m.v. “SHANGHAI SPIRIT”
- Third Officer Mr. Kim Galvez Fernandez of m.v. “PORT KENNY”

The Director of Marine’s commendations to those saved lives at sea

The Marine Department (MD) held a presentation ceremony at the Hong Kong City Hall on 11 November 2021 to commend those who risked their lives to rescue others in Hong Kong waters. Ms. Carol Yuen, the Director of Marine presented commendations to a total of 31 brave people. The awardees included not only police officers and staff of MD, but also members of the Hong Kong Pilots Association Ltd. and ordinary members of the public.

In her speech at the presentation ceremony, Ms. Carol Yuen stressed that without the helping hand given by the awardees in the critical situation, some lives would have been lost. On behalf of the Department, she expressed her heartfelt thanks to all awardees for their great courage in the face of danger.

Hong Kong Maritime Week 2021

The Hong Kong Maritime Week (HKMW) 2021, organised by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB) to promote Hong Kong as a preferred base for setting up and expanding maritime operation and business, was successfully held from 31 October to 6 November, 2021. The fabulous week of multifarious maritime activities created a platform for members of the Hong Kong maritime industries to demonstrate their strengths, raise the community’s awareness of the economic contributions of Hong Kong’s maritime and port industries and promote Hong Kong as a preferred base for operating maritime business.

The theme of HKMW 2021 was ‘Propel Hong Kong’. With the strong support from the co-organisers, collaborators and members of industry, 38 events were held successfully. A total of 43 local and international maritime institutions from a diversity of maritime services organised those events under their purview covering areas such as ship financing, marine insurance, maritime law and arbitration, maritime technology and digitalisation, port and logistics, ship management, maritime education and career, green shipping and decarbonisation as well as general shipping and maritime issues. The Marine Department (MD) also hosted a number of visits to the Government Dockyard (GD), Marine Department Training Centre (Simulator), Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC), and Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) to introduce the work of MD and to attract young people to join the maritime industry.

Please visit www.hkmw.hk for more activity reviews include the opening ceremony!

Departmental News

TV Series on 14th Five-Year Plan Prospect — International Maritime Centre

The Government commissioned a local TV broadcaster to produce a series of feature programmes about the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s work in complementing the National 14th Five-Year Plan. One of the episodes, themed “International Maritime Centre”, introduced the development of the Hong Kong maritime industry and the “high value-added maritime services” provided by Hong Kong as an international maritime hub. The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr. Frank Chan Fan, gave an interview for that episode.

Assistance was provided by the Marine Department (MD) for the production of the feature programme by arranging the film crew to film a shipboard Flag State Quality Control (FSQC) Audit conducted by Mr. Jorgen Chow (the then Surveyor of Ships/ Cargo Ships Safety) and Ms. Yoyo Chan (Assistant Surveyor of Ships) on a Hong Kong registered ocean-going cargo vessel berthing at the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals. The episode also aired an interview with Mr. Eric Lee, the then Senior Surveyor of Ships/Ship Registration Services, who explained the role of MD in raising the safety standard and quality of Hong Kong registered ships.

Induction Programme

The Marine Department held an induction programme on 17 November 2021 for

16 new recruits of the grades of Marine Officer and Surveyor of Ships to help them familiarise themselves with the working environment.

Cross-harbour swimming race

After a two-year suspension, the New World Harbour Race was held again on 12 December 2021. A total of 1,200 swimmers set off from Wan Chai Golden Bauhinia Square Public Pier and splashed their way to the finishing point at the Avenue of Stars on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront. In view of the heavy marine traffic in the Victoria Harbour, the Marine Department (MD) gave advice during the preparation process and also assisted in implementing marine traffic regulation measures so as to ensure the swimmers' safety and the smooth running of the event.

To safeguard the safety of swimmers, patrol launches of MD were deployed to command on-scene marine traffic and to prevent vessels from entering the track. The Vessel Traffic Centre regulated ocean-going and river-trade vessels in the waters concerned and broadcasted safety messages to the vessels through VHF channels. In addition to the above, the Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre was on standby for emergency situations.

The Navigational Safety Seminar

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marine Department produced a set of promotional and publicity materials on navigational safety this year for distribution to the trade in lieu of a physical Navigational Safety Seminar. The set of materials includes a bilingual DVD and pamphlets featuring the latest amendments to shipping ordinances and their subsidiary legislation and other related legislation, including the revised Notes for Local Pleasure Vessels (Class IV Vessels) and the Introduction to the Classification of Dangerous Goods, as well as various topics related to marine safety.

Typhoon Shelter Cleansing Exercise

In addition to the provision of daily marine refuse collection and scavenging services, the Marine Department (MD) conducted a special cleanup operation at Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter on 2 January, 2022 to step up efforts to keep the sea clean. Promotional leaflets were also distributed by MD officers to remind the public to keep the harbour clean.