

Repair and Maintenance of Government Vessels

Sailing in the vast sea, a vessel is inevitably subject to deterioration due to wear and tear as well as corrosion owing to exposure to stormy waves and sea condition.

Regular repair and maintenance is to ensure that the vessels are working well and to prolong their life span. The Government Fleet Division (GFD) of the Marine Department (MD) is responsible for the design, procurement and operation of government vessels, and provides preventive maintenance and emergency repair services for the government fleet. In this issue of Hong Kong Maritime News, the editor shows you the work of the Maintenance and Support Section of the GFD!

Development of the Government Dockyard (GD)

Before 1971

The Government Slipways in Yau Ma Tei had only small open spaces and slipways, providing maintenance services for about 200 small government vessels.

1971

After the establishment of the GD in Canton Road, the capacity of maintaining government vessels increased from 200 to 530.

1995

The GD was officially relocated to Stonecutters Island under the management of the GFD of the MD.

The GD located on Stonecutters Island covers 9.8 hectares, with an additional 8.3 hectares of basin area for mooring of government vessels. There are 10 fixed covered ship repair sheds, 4 mobile covered repair sheds, 30 open yard repair spaces, 22 pier berths, 32 buildings and a fuel oil depot.

The current Government Fleet consists of more than 1,000 vessels belonging to 13 different government departments.

Repair and Maintenance of Government Vessels

The repair and maintenance of government vessels involve sophisticated and professional work that require specialised skills and knowledge. It can be generally

divided into preventive maintenance services and emergency repair services.

Preventive maintenance services

- Inspection of hull
- Maintenance of electrical apparatus
- Inspection of fire-fighting system
- Cleansing and maintenance for hull
- Coating and preservation

Emergency repair services

- Repair of engine
- Repair of steering gear
- Repair of ship equipment

The GD has a number of maintenance workshops and facilities, including electrical workshop, propeller workshop, fuel injection equipment workshop, carpenter workshop, marine engine workshop, inflatable craft and fibreglass workshop, dynamometer room, and outboard engine testing facilities. When necessary, the parts can be dismantled from a vessel and transported to a relevant maintenance workshop or facility for further inspection and repair.

Most of the repair and maintenance work is carried out in the GD by approved vessel maintenance services contractors, while the rest is carried out by technical staff of the GD. Maintenance and Support Section of the MD is responsible for coordinating and supervising vessel repair progress and quality of government fleet, providing vessel lifting service for repairing vessels, and monitoring the performance of contractors so as to ensure that repair and maintenance work is completed in accordance with relevant safety standards and requirements.

Depending on the size of a vessel and the extent of repair and maintenance work, the Maintenance and Support Section will also arrange the vessel lifting system, a hoist or a crane to move the vessel to a suitable covered repair shed or open yard repair space for repair and maintenance. At present, apart from covered repair sheds, movable canopies and open yard repair spaces, the dockyard is also equipped with a ship-lift system and three ship travel hoists capable of shifting vessels of up to 750 tonnes to repair site.

To facilitate the repair and maintenance of government vessels and dockyard

equipment, the GD has a warehouse of approximately 4,000 square meters to store the required equipment and spare parts. An on-line computerised information system is adopted to coordinate the maintenance activities and support services to maximise maintenance efficiency and vessel availability.

MD attracts and nurtures talents

The Marine Department (MD) is committed to promoting the maritime industry. Apart from organising career expos regularly, MD also arranges visits for schools and youth organisations to enable students to learn about the work of MD, as well as various job opportunities in the maritime industry so as to encourage them to pursue maritime related career.

• MD and the Hong Kong Sea School

Each year, MD organises a range of maritime related activities for Hong Kong Sea School's (HKSS) "All-round Learning Week" to provide students with in-depth understanding of the MD's role in safeguarding marine safety in Hong Kong. This year, an enriched four-day programme was arranged for 45 Secondary Four students of HKSS in February and March.

Day 1 of the programme

The students first visited the Vessel Traffic Centre and moved on to the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre to learn about MD's work in regulating marine traffic and co-ordinating search and rescue at sea.

Day 2 of the programme

The students were arranged to visit an oil spill response exercise near Lamma Island to learn about the emergency measures and strategies adopted by the Pollution Control Unit in combating oil pollution. MD also explained to students the causes for oil spills, techniques to handle oil pollution and the collection process of marine refuse, so as to enhance their knowledge about pollution control at sea and to raise their awareness on the importance of keeping the harbour clean.

Day 3 of the programme

The day started with a visit to the MD Training Centre, and followed by a tour to the Aids to Navigation and Mooring Unit as well as the maintenance workshops inside Government Dockyard. The students grasped the opportunities one after another to understand the maintenance and installation process of various buoys, mooring buoys and navigation light etc., as well as the safety requirements of vessels and the precautions during navigation.

Day 4 of the programme

In the last day, MD tailored-made a boat tour for the students, sailing across the Stonecutters Bridge, Kwai Tsing Container Terminals and Rambler Channel Typhoon Shelter, so that they could have a field trip of the harbour facilities in Hong Kong waters. Nearby the Tsing Yi waters, MD also demonstrated how to conduct a routine inspection on board so that the students could get some first-hand experience on the daily patrol and enforcement work of the Harbour Patrol Section.

The students learned how to use "eSeaGo" App which shows chart information of Hong Kong waters, thus making their learning more interesting.

At the end of the programme, the students unanimously expressed that they had gained a lot which inspired them to pay more respect to the hard work and contribution of maritime workers and expressed their wishes to join the maritime industry in the future.

• Other visits

In April, May, and July this year, MD arranged students from MunSang College, Bethel High School, and Heung To Middle School respectively to visit Government Dockyard and MD Training Centre with the aim of introducing the work of MD and the entry requirements for employment. Under the guidance of MD staff, the students had the opportunity to operate a ship simulator and experience the feeling of steering a vessel in Hong Kong waters, allowing them to appreciate the importance of marine traffic safety.

- **Maritime Professional Promotion Federation**

Student members from the Maritime Professional Promotion Federation (MPPF) visited MD Kwai Chung Control Station in March this year, to learn about the essential procedures for vessels entering and leaving the basin of Kwai Tsing Container Terminals, including the communication with the control station, to ensure the navigational safety in that waters.

In April this year, student members from the MPPF also visited the Government Dockyard, where they learned about the work of MD and the entry requirements for careers in the maritime industry. The students also had the chance to operate a ship simulator and tasted the excitement of boating.

- **Yu Kun Training Programme**

The 2023 “Yu Kun” Training Programme funded by the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund and organised by the Hong Kong Seamen's Union in collaboration with the Dalian Maritime University (DMU) started on 13 August in Dalian.

22 Hong Kong students of the Maritime Services Training Institute, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University participated in the 11-day training programme from 13 to 23 August. Through the training programme, the students received practical seafaring training and experienced the life on board a vessel. They also visited various maritime related facilities in DMU.

- **Local Maritime Industry Employers Information Session by HKSS**

To attract more young talents to join the MD and the shipping industry, the MD participated in Local Maritime Industry Employers Information Sessions organised by HKSS on 20 May. Representatives from the MD set up a booth onsite and introduced to visitors the entry requirements, duties and career prospects of Marine Inspectors, as well as the functions of the Department with a view to help them gain a better understanding of the maritime industry and plan their future careers.

- **MD participated in Sing Tao JobMarket's job fair**

The Marine Department (MD) participated in Sing Tao JobMarket's job fair held

on 9 August. Assistant Marine Officer, Mr. Kelvin Tsang, and Assistant Surveyor of Ships, Mr. Philip Ng, represented MD as the guest speakers of the fair to introduce to visitors the department's functions as well as the job duties of various professional grades at a sharing session and MD's booth to allow people visiting the job fair to learn more about the maritime industry and encourage them to devote to the maritime industry and MD in the future.

• **2023 Day of the Seafarer**

With the Marine Department (MD) as the sponsor, the Hong Kong Seamen's Union successfully organised a series of activities to celebrate the "Day of the Seafarer 2023" on 25 June. Mr. Wong Sai-fat, the Deputy Director of Marine (1); Mr. Law Lap-keung, the Assistant Director/ Planning & Services; and Mr. Jammy Ng, the General Manager/ Seafarers and Examination, officiated and spoke at the activities.

This year's "Day of the Seafarer" aims at saluting seafarers around the globe as well as raising the public awareness and knowledge about the maritime industry. Fascinating celebration activities on that day included "Thanksgiving for Seafarers Coloring and Drawing Contest", "Day of the Seafarer Table Tennis Tournament", and "Ship Simulator and VR Experience Camp" and so on.

Participants of "Thanksgiving for Seafarers Coloring and Drawing Contest" expressed their heartfelt thanks to seafarers for their contribution to the society through coloring and drawing work. Mr. Wong Sai-fat pointed out that the art work showed the participants' appreciation towards seafarers and reminded us of the significant role played by seafarers in safeguarding the global trade and economic development.

The "Day of the Seafarer Table Tennis Tournament" aims to foster closer relationships between seafarers and boost their physical and mental health through friendly competitions. The tournament attracted a significant number of table tennis enthusiasts to participate and Mr. Jammy Ng said that such activities could help enhance the team spirit of seafarers as well as strengthening their abilities to tackle challenges.

The "Ship Simulator and VR Experience Camp" provided participants with valuable chances to experience vessel steering under guidance, and to understand the various challenges faced by seafarers in sailing.

In addition, the MD organised a "Port Facilities Tour" for students to board the

Harbour Cruise- Bauhinia 'Man Foo' to tour around the container terminals and the Tsing Ma Bridge and have a closer look at those facilities. Mr. Law Lap-keung taught the students the proper way to use a life jacket. During the tour, Mr. Law Lap-Keung introduced the different harbour facilities and types of vessels to enrich students' knowledge on maritime facilities.

To celebrate the "Day of the Seafarer", the Hong Kong Maritime Museum offered free admission for the public on 25 June. The museum and the MD showed the public how to scavenge floating refuse at sea, so as to let them learn more about the daily operation of the marine scavenging services and the latest technology used in carrying out the work.

The MD will continue to support activities which can help promote the maritime industry in order to raise the public awareness of the industry and express our gratitude to seafarers around the world.

2023 GBA Maritime Summer Camp Activities

To enhance exchanges in maritime safety, and also shipping and maritime culture among young people in the Guandong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Marine Department (MD) joined the "2023 Greater Bay Area (GBA) Maritime Summer Camp" organised by the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration again this year. Visits to the MD were arranged for members of the newly established Marine Department Youth Group (MDYG), different schools and organisations to enable students and teenagers to learn more about operations of the department and the maritime facilities as well as various job opportunities in the shipping industry.

- **2023 GBA Summer Camp opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony of the 2023 GBA Summer Camp was held by Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration on 8 August. The Deputy Director of Marine (2), Ms. Lydia Lam, attended the Flag Presentation Ceremony.

- **Visit to the Green Island Lighthouse**

To broaden young people's understanding of the maritime industry, the MDYG arranged a visit to the Green Island Lighthouse, which was declared a monument in 2008, for its members on 21 July. Members of the MDYG learned about the

importance of the lighthouse to seafarers, the navigation information provided by the navigational lights to vessels, and the work of the MD in repairing and maintaining the lighthouse.

- **Career Talk with Poly U**

Ocean-going Experience Programme Kick-off Ceremony 2023 was held in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) on 5 August. The Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, officiated at the event.

The MDYG invited Mr Vincent Suen, Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities, and Mr. Li Yin-chun, the acting Surveyor of Ships (Engineer)/Seafarers and Examination, to visit the PolyU on 5 August. By sharing their own working experience, they encouraged students to join the maritime industry after graduation.

- **Company Visits**

The MDYG joined hands with the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association Hong Kong to organise company visits to Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Limited and Pacific Basin Shipping Limited on 9 and 17 August respectively. Through company tour and career sharing, the students could learn more about the actual operation and the working environment of shipping companies in Hong Kong.

Through this summer camp, young people could acquire precious working experience, explore the latest development of the maritime industry, and understand the diversified opportunity and prospect offered by the industry, thus enabling them to become the future professionals of the Hong Kong maritime sector.

Maritime and Aviation Internship Scheme

With an aim to encourage youngsters to join the maritime industry after their graduation and learn more about the diversified job opportunities in the field, the Marine Department (MD) has enhanced publicity and educational efforts to disseminate maritime related messages via various channels to them. The government has also invited a number of maritime-related companies to participate in the Maritime and Aviation Internship Scheme (MAIS) to offer internship places for students with a view to encouraging young people to join the maritime industry.

• **Boat Tour cum Sharing Session**

On 14 July, the Transport and Logistics Bureau together with MD held a boat tour cum sharing session for young people. This event was also one of the activities organised under the "2023 Greater Bay Area Maritime Summer Camp" to help young people learn more about the development and job opportunities in the maritime industry in Hong Kong. The Boat Tour was officiated by the Acting Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-San; and over 160 student interns of the Scheme and secondary school students were invited to board the "Pearl of the Orient" and tour around the maritime facilities. More than 20 officers from MD took part in the event and introduced the various maritime facilities, the entry requirements of different grades in MD as well as the career prospects of the maritime industry to the students.

• **Visit to the Government Dockyard**

Through the MAIS, a visit to the Government Dockyard (GD) located on the Stonecutters Island was arranged by MD on 18 August for 14 interns of the Scheme to help them learn more about the facilities of GD, the operation of maritime and port facilities in Hong Kong, as well as the career prospects of the maritime industry.

MD and Hong Kong Shipowners Association host "2023 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony"

On 2 May, the Marine Department (MD) and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) co-hosted the "2023 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony", to appreciate the support of shipowners and shipping companies and promote the services of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) and HKSOA. We were delighted to have the Secretary for Transport and Logistics (STL), Mr. Lam Sai-hung, to officiate and speak at the event.

STL, Mr. Lam Sai-hung, the Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, and Chairman of HKSOA, Mr. Wellington Koo, presented a list of awards to winning shipping companies in recognition of their outstanding performances in the pursuit of high quality Hong Kong-registered ships and the bravery of the masters and crew on the high seas over the past year.

"2023 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony" is one of the major maritime activities since the resumption of normalcy of Hong Kong early this year.

About 150 maritime industry representatives and distinguished guests attended the event.

The Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Lam Sai-hung, officiated and spoke at the “2023 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony”.

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

Award for the company with the highest gross tonnage (GT) on the HKSR in 2022

- China COSCO SHIPPING Corporation Limited

Award for the company which placed the most GT on the HKSR in 2022

- Seaspan Corporation
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Award for outstanding performance in port State control (PSC) for the year of 2022

- Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited
- COSCO Shipping Bulk Co., Ltd.
- Fleet Management Limited
- Hong Kong Ming Wah Shipping Company Ltd.
- Maersk A/S
- Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- Raffles Technical Services Pte. Ltd.
- Seaspan Ship Management Ltd.
- Shanghai Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd.
- SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
- Wah Kwong Ship Management (HK) Ltd.

Award for Bravery for the year of 2022

- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited, on behalf of all the crew members of MV EASTERN CAPE
- Maersk A/S, on behalf of all the crew members of MV LEDA MAERSK

Hong Kong and Macao enhance cooperation to ensure maritime safety

On 20 June, the Hong Kong Marine Department and the Macao Marine and Water Bureau held the "2023 Hong Kong-Macao Maritime Safety Working Meeting" in Macao. Ms. Carol Yuen, Director of Marine of the Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region, led a delegation to participate in the meeting. Both sides exchanged views on various maritime issues including the status and management of ferry services plying between Hong Kong and Macao, the preparation of joint maritime search and rescue exercise, and the promotion of maritime e-government services.

During the meeting, search and rescue cooperation of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in response to marine accidents and emergency situations was discussed. To enhance the emergency response capabilities of the three maritime administrations in times of emergency, both parties agreed to conduct the 2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Maritime Emergency Response Exercise in the second half of the year in the waters around Macao.

Besides, the two parties also exchanged views on the training and technical cooperation arrangements for Port State Control Officers; the latest situation of the fairways south of Cheung Chau in Hong Kong; the progress of the e-certification for cross-boundary high-speed passenger craft; the management measures of the certificate for vessels being towed; and the sharing of nautical charts and waterways information, etc. Both Hong Kong and Macao looked forward to enhancing the technical and management standards of maritime personnel through a continuous close cooperation.

Meeting to enhance Guangdong and HK maritime co-ordination and co-operation

The 29th regular meeting between the Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) and Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (GDMSA) was held in Nansha, Guangzhou on 7 July. The Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, led a delegation to meet with the Director-General of GDMSA, Mr. Zhuang Ze-ping and his delegation. Both sides discussed various issues including the enhancement of cooperation in safeguarding the safe navigation of liquefied natural gas vessels entering and exiting the Dangan Channel; the strengthening of the notification and co-ordination mechanism for handling emergency situations and other topics of mutual interest.

Departmental News

Deputy Director of Marine assumes duty

Ms. Lydia Lam assumed the post of Deputy Director of Marine (2) on 17 July, succeeding Miss Amy Chan. Ms. Lam is responsible for leading the Government Fleet Division, Planning and Services Division, Administrative Branch, Finance Branch, and Information and Public Relations Section of the Department.

MD Volunteer team

The Marine Department's (MD) volunteer team actively takes part in activities organised by various community organisations and voluntary groups to help the needy and to co-build a harmonious and caring society.

On 3 June, nine MD colleagues participated in a volunteer activity organised by Food Angel and prepared more than 3,000 lunch boxes, providing nutritious hot meals for people in need in the community.

Delegation from the Panama Maritime Authority pays courtesy call on MD

A delegation from the Panama Maritime Authority paid a courtesy call on the Marine Department (MD) on 18 April and met with the Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, and directorate officers of the MD. The delegation was briefed on the key functions and services of MD, including the Hong Kong Shipping Register, Vessel Traffic Control, Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination. During the visit, the two parties also exchanged views on issues of mutual concern, such as IMO matters, Port State Control inspection, and green shipping.

Hong Kong Ferry Group 100th anniversary ceremony

The Hong Kong Ferry Group held the "Hong Kong Ferry Group 100th Anniversary Ceremony" on 29 April at Central Pier No.4. The Chief Executive, Mr. John Lee, the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Lam Sai-hung, the Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, and celebrities from the business and political sectors gathered at the ceremony to celebrate the historical moment as the Hong Kong Ferry had already rode the wind and waves with Hong Kong for a century.

After the ceremony, the guests joined participants and mentors of the "Strive and Rise Programme" to board the Harbour Cruise - Bauhinia and enjoy the stunning view of the Victoria Harbour. To ensure fairways are free from obstructions and navigational safety of vessels, as well as the smooth running of the event, the Marine Department also deployed patrol launches to direct marine traffic at scene.

Marine Department holds seminar to promote water sport safety

The Marine Department (MD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the Leisure and

Cultural Services Department hosted the “2023 Safety Afloat Educational Seminar” at the Hong Kong Science Museum on 12 May. Deputy Director of Marine (1), Mr. Wong Sai-fat spoke at the seminar and reminded the public, coxswains and vessel operators to get well prepared before participating in water sport activities to ensure their safety at all times.

To promote marine safety, the MD reminds the public that they should only hire pleasure vessels endorsed by the MD to be let for hire or carry passengers for reward and check the endorsed list of vessels by scanning the QR code on MD’s posters. Also, TV and radio announcements are broadcasted on various platforms to assist the public in identifying the endorsed vessels.

In addition, the MD distributes leaflets on “Life-Saving Appliances on Class I & IV Local Vessels” to the public with a view to raising their awareness of life-saving appliances on board as well as to prevent accidents. The MD will continue its promotional and educational efforts to enhance public awareness on the safety of water sport activities.

Kick-off Ceremony of 2023 Occupational Safety and Health

The kick-off ceremony for the “2023 Occupational Safety and Health” jointly organised by the Harbour Transportation Workers General Union, the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Occupational Safety and Health Association, the Chu Kong Transshipment & Logistics Co., Ltd., the Occupational Safety and Health Council and the Labour Department, with the assistance from the Marine Department, was successfully held at the New Yau Ma Tei Public Cargo Working Area on 19 July. This campaign aims to raise the awareness of employers and employees on the prevention of heatstroke, and also to allow the staff to work in a safer working environment. The Deputy Director of Marine (1), Mr. Wong Sai-fat, officiated at the kick-off ceremony and delivered a speech.

Display of Giant Rubber Ducks

The two giant inflatable rubber ducks created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman were displayed at the Victoria Harbour from 10 to 18 June 2023. The two 18-metre rubber duck installations were among the tallest rubber ducks in the world, attracting a large number of visitors to view and take photos.

To ensure the smooth display of these two giant rubber duck installations, the Marine Department (MD) had carried out a series of preparation work beforehand, including meetings with relevant parties to discuss the details, requiring the applicant to submit a survey report for the giant rubber ducks by an authorised surveyor approved by the Department and ensure both ducks were securely moored at the designated location. The MD then issued a "Floating Structure Permit" to the applicant after granting the approval. The impact of the display on marine traffic safety was also examined.

In addition, to safeguard the safety of the vessels and other port users, the MD set up a restricted area in the Victoria Harbour off the Central and Western District Promenade during the display of the rubber ducks to prohibit vessels from entering or staying in the restricted area. Besides, during the giant rubber duck parade, patrol launches of the MD and Marine Police were also deployed to regulate marine traffic at scene.

To know more about how the MD assisted the display of the Giant Rubber Ducks, please visit the Transport and Logistics Bureau Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1402821460519939>

2023 Dragon Boat cum Colour Boat Races

On 24 June, the Marine Department (MD) organised the “2023 Dragon Boat cum Colour Boat Races” at the Government Dockyard. Rowing teams representing MD, several government departments, maritime-related organisations and companies participated in the races and competed for awards in different categories. They demonstrated good team spirit at the races and the event was conducted in a smooth manner.

Typhoon Shelter Cleansing Exercises

The Marine Department (MD) spares no effort in maintaining cleanliness in Hong Kong waters. In addition to the daily scavenging of floating refuse and collection of domestic refuse from vessels, the MD conducted large-scale cleanup operations in April and May this year at the Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter, the Chai Wan Cargo Handling Basin, as well as the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter. At the same time, MD officers distributed promotional leaflets to ship owners and the public to remind them the need to keep the harbour clean.