

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING

Date : 30 March 2020 (Monday)
Place : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building
Time : 2:30 p.m.

Present

Chairman:	S F Wong	Deputy Director, Marine Department (“MD”)
Members:	Ma Kam-fai, Henry	Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association
	Chan Kam-foo	Shipping Agencies
	Ning Fuk-kei, Franco	Containers Terminal Operators
	Zhong Ying	Dockyard Industry
	Chow Shiu-bong, Cliff	Tug Operators
	Chu Wai-leung	Oil Terminal Operators
	Capt Tsang Cheuk-yin, Joe	Master Mariner
	Capt Chan Kam-wing	Master Mariner
	Capt Wang Chi-cheong	Licensed Pilot
	Capt Lam Wai-ming, Steven	Licensed Pilot
	C T Lai	Assistant Director / Port Control (“AD/PC”), MD
	J H Huang	General Manager / Vessel Traffic Services (“GM/VTS”), MD
	C Q Cai	Surveyor of Ships (Nautical) Examiner, MD
Secretary:	Anson MC Sinn	Executive Officer (General & Committee), MD

In attendance (except for item II)

Cory Keung

Acting Senior Marine Officer /
Vessel Traffic Centre, MD

George Tang

Marine Manager (“MM”) / Pilotage,
MD

Absent with apologies

Capt Lam Ming-fung, Lothair

Hong Kong Shipowners Association

Ms Lu Zheng, Caroline

Dry Bulk Cargo Operators

Yim Kong, Erik

Break Bulk Cargo Operators

Capt Zhou Wei

Master Mariner

I. Opening Remarks

Action

1. The Chairman extended his welcome to all the members and acknowledged their understanding on the special meeting arrangements in view of the coronavirus pandemic. It was the first time to conduct PAC meeting through online video conferencing with a view to minimising the risk of the spread of coronavirus in the community.

II. Interview of pilot apprentices-to-be

2. The Chairman said that PAC would interview three candidates in sequence (namely Kwong Kit-shing, To Cheuk-fung and Young Chung-sing, Dicky) to test their suitability for being apprentice pilots.
3. All the Members (including the Chairman) of PAC declared no actual / perceived / potential conflict of interest.
4. The three candidates were asked to brief PAC on their maritime study and sea-time experience, core competence/qualities of being a pilot and reasons for choosing pilotage to be a vocation. They were also asked about their (lack of) experience in manoeuvring different types of ocean-going vessels and how to equip themselves with such navigational skills and knowledge.
5. PAC considered the interview performance of the three candidates ranging from adequate to impressive. One of the candidates needed to further strengthen his comprehension and communication skills. On the contrary, one of the other candidates demonstrated to PAC that he had a vocation and passion for pilotage.

III. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2019

6. The minutes of last PAC meeting held on 14 January 2019 were confirmed without amendment.

Post-meeting note: The meeting minutes were uploaded to the website on 3 April 2020.

IV. Discussion items

(i) *PAC Paper No. 1/2020 – Training, Assessment and Examination Arrangements for Upgrading Pilots from Class IIA to Class I*

7. The meeting endorsed PAC Paper No. 1/2020.

(ii) *PAC Paper No. 2/2020 – Proposed Amendments to the Berthing Guidelines*

8. The meeting endorsed PAC Paper No. 2/2020.

Post-meeting note: The endorsed berthing guidelines were uploaded to the website on 7 April 2020.

V. Any Other Business

(i) *Application for Examination for Class IIF Pilot*

9. By way of background, Hong Kong Pilots Association submitted a letter to MD on 12 February 2020. An apprentice pilot, Ng Wai-shuen, started apprenticeship in August 2018 and could not complete the apprentice programme within 12 months due to family reason. Mr Ng would have completed the apprentice programme by April 2020.

10. MM/Pilotage briefed the meeting on regulation 4 of the Pilotage Order (Cap. 84C), reproduced below (emphasis underlined) –

A person applying for a licence shall—

(a) be a registered apprentice pilot; and

(b) have the appropriate experience specified in Schedule 1 gained within a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months or such longer period as may be allowed by the Authority after consultation with the Pilotage Advisory Committee.

11. Having regard to the merits of the case, PAC recommended to the Director of Marine *qua* Pilotage Authority that Mr Ng be allowed to take examinations for Class IIF pilot in 2020 upon his completion of apprenticeship programme on compassionate grounds.

Post-meeting note: On 7 April 2020, the Director of Marine *qua* Pilotage Authority agreed to PAC's above recommendation. Mr Ng would be required to complete the additional training and apply for examinations (scope of examinations with reference to PAC paper no. 1/2016) by 17 July 2020. The additional in-house training was listed below:

- (a) 50 container ships to/from berth;
(at least 10 ships of length 160m - 190m)
- (b) 30 bulkers/tankers to from berth; and
(at least 10 ships of length 160m - 190m)
- (c) 20 ships to/from anchorage/mooring buoy; 4 numbers of these movements must have commenced during the hours between sunset and sunrise.
(at least 10 ships of length 160m - 190m)

(ii) *Inter-departmental Communication Mechanism and Procedures for the Intended Relaxation of Height Restriction of Tsing Ma Bridge*

12. In response to an enquiry by Henry Ma, Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (HKLSA), AD/PC said that the inter-departmental communication mechanism between MD and the Highways Department (HyD) was being finalised. HyD and the trade would be invited to firm up the protocol in due course. Meanwhile, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) would consider the timetable for relevant legislative amendment regarding relaxation of the height restriction for vessels passing underneath Tsing Ma Bridge.

Post-meeting note: HKLSA enquired THB vide email of 8 April 2020 about how the transit of vessels would take place – including the availability of the existing tidal allowance, plus the availability of an additional 2.2m allowance when the maintenance crane was not in use.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

13. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

Distribution list

Chairman, PAC
Members, PAC
SMO/VTC, MD
MM/Pilotage, MD

Committee Unit

Marine Department

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