

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING

Date : 27 November 2020 (Friday)
Place : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building
Time : 9:30 a.m.

Present

Chairman:	S F Wong	Deputy Director (1), Marine Department (“MD”)
Members:	Capt Lam Ming-fung, Lothair	Hong Kong Shipowners Association
	Ma Kam-fai, Henry	Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association
	Chan Kam-foo	Shipping Agencies
	Ning Fuk-kei, Franco	Containers Terminal Operators
	Ms Lu Zheng, Caroline	Dry Bulk Cargo Operators
	Chu Wai-leung	Oil Terminal Operator s
	Zhong Ying	Dockyard Industry
	Chow Shiu-bong, Cliff	Tug Operators
	Capt Zhou Wei	Master Mariner
	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, MD
	HU Guizhong	Surveyor of Ships (Nautical) / Seafarers and Examination (2), MD
Secretary:	Athena LIU	Executive Officer (General & Committee), MD

In attendance (except for items I, II and III)

Ms Catherine Chow	China Merchants Port Holdings Company
Poon Ka-tik	Acting Senior Marine Officer / Vessel Traffic Centre, MD
George Tang	Marine Manager / Pilotage, MD

Absent with apologies

Yim Kong, Erik	Break Bulk Cargo Operators
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I. Opening Remarks

Action

1. The Chairman extended his welcome to all the members and acknowledged their attendance even in midst of the coronavirus pandemic. He also introduced Ma Kam-fai, Henry, Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (HKLSA) to have joined the meeting through online video conferencing. In view of the pandemic, some infection control measures were implemented.

II. Interview of pilot apprentices-to-be

2. The Chairman said that PAC would interview three candidates in sequence (namely Fan Song-chin, Andrew, Lam Ernest and Lee Wai-chun, Michael) 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 was impressive. They possessed good language ability and communication skill. As for the lack of experience in manoeuvring bulk carriers and tankers, PAC considered that HKPA should provide sufficient training for the apprentices to equip them with comprehensive skills and knowledge in tackling different types of vessels.

Post-meeting note: With the approval from the Pilotage Authority, all three applicants registered as apprentice pilots with effect from 27 November 2020.

III. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 March 2020

6. The minutes of last PAC meeting held on 30 March 2020 were confirmed without amendment.

Post-meeting note: The meeting minutes were uploaded to the MD website on 30 November 2020.

IV. Discussion items

- (a) *PAC Paper No. 3/2020 – Proposed Amendments to the Berthing Guidelines*

7. The meeting endorsed PAC Paper No. 3/2020.

Post-meeting note: The endorsed berthing guidelines were uploaded to the MD website on 1 December 2020.

- (b) *Tsing Ma Bridge Relaxation*

8. In relation to the intended relaxation of height restriction of Tsing Ma Bridge, members discussed if transit Ma Wan at night for container vessels with draft not greater than 15.5m could be relaxed. Ma Kam-fai, Henry, HKLSA, welcomed the draft relaxation and opined that the PAC Working Group should consider the feasibility of further relaxation of draft limit to 16.0m.

In connection with the transit of large vessels, Capt. Lam Wai Ming, Steven expressed that there were deep concerns over the waters near the Tuen Mun buoy where, localized traffic comprising coasters, tugs and tows steaming close to the buoy (especially eastbound traffic), leaving not much room for westbound deep draft vessels using the fairway. This had inevitably posed a threat to the large sized vessels. To minimize potential navigation hazards in the area, it was suggested that MD's patrol service should be stepped up in the locality in order to regularize the traffic as some of the local/river-trade vessels did not participate the VTS reporting system and could not be reached by VHF.

JH HUANG expressed that both localized traffics and piloted vessels are having the same right to use the principal fairways as long as the Colreg is strictly complied with. He reminded that large size piloted vessels should maintain safe speed at all times especially when navigating in the vicinity of Tuen Mun buoy.

While both the Chairman and Capt Wang Chi-cheong agreed that vessel safety is of paramount importance and that the concern raised is a traffic management issue outside the Ma Wan Service Area, hence is considered irrelevant to the proposed draft relaxation of Ma Wan transit, After discussion, it was agreed to commence a trial run of the revised berthing guideline with 15.5m draft as the restricting limit for night transit at Ma Wan with immediate effect and subject to a review upon completion of 30 numbers of voyages in the vicinity.

Post-meeting note: The revised berthing guideline was uploaded to the MD website on 1 December 2020.

V. Any Other Business

Update on Tsing Ma Bridge Height Relaxation

9. In response to an enquiry by Ma Kam-fai, Henry, HKLSA, AD/PC advised that the relevant legislative amendment is scheduled to be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 9 December 2020 and the proposed effective date will be on 28 January 2021.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

10. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 24 August 2021.

Distribution list

Chairman, PAC

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

Committee Unit

Marine Department

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