

## **Existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality**

### **Marine Department**

Our mission is “We are One in Promoting Excellence in Marine Services”. Being the administrator of the port, our principal functions are to ensure safe operation of the port and all Hong Kong waters as well as to operate the Hong Kong Shipping Register and safeguard the quality of the Hong Kong registered ships. We are committed to promoting racial equality and ensuring equal access to marine services. We also pledge to devote our professional knowledge and technical expertise to protecting the lives of those who work on ships or travel by sea regardless of the race<sup>1</sup>.

Services Concerned            We provide a wide spectrum of services which can be broadly classified into five areas, namely:

- Planning and Services – strategic planning for port development, port security administration, cross-boundary ferry terminals, pollution control, public cargo working areas, aids to navigation and mooring, hydrographic services
- Port Control – port operations, navigational safety, marine emergencies, search and rescue co-ordination, licensing and control of local craft
- Multi-lateral Policy – marine accident investigation, and the development of policies, standards and legislation
- Shipping – the Hong Kong Shipping Register, enforcement of international convention standards, surveys of foreign-going ships
- Local Vessels and Examination – marine industrial safety, local vessel safety and survey, regulation of local vessels, examination, certification and discipline of seafarers and

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<sup>1</sup> Race, in relation to a person, means the race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin of the person.

- Government Fleet – design, procurement, operation, crewing and maintenance of government vessels.

Existing Measures

Services are provided in Chinese and/or English. Information leaflets and pamphlets available for distribution to the public are printed in both Chinese and English. Besides, to ensure equal access to public services, service users of diverse race may make use of free-of-charge telephone interpretation service and on-site interpretation service, amongst other services, provided by the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER Centre)<sup>2</sup>. Publicity materials (including posters, booklets, leaflets and cue cards) on the aforementioned interpretation and translation services have been placed at the reception counters of various service units. Relevant guidelines and booklet are circulated regularly to enhance staff's knowledge in promoting racial equality. Staff members are also encouraged to attend training on seminars and workshops on equal opportunities and the anti-discrimination ordinances organised by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute to foster a racially inclusive and cohesive work culture and to raise their awareness on racial sensitivity and cultural diversity.

Assessment of Future Work

Data with respect to provision of language (interpretation / translation) services are collected regularly to facilitate compilation of statistical returns for continuous enhancement of public services and promoting equality of opportunity.

Additional Measures Taken

Marine Department will upload the booklet on Race Discrimination Ordinance - "Race Discrimination Ordinance and I" to the departmental intranet for staff's reference.

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<sup>2</sup> The CHEER Centre, a non-governmental organisation commissioned by the Home Affairs Department, is a language support service centre to assist people of diverse race in accessing general public services. For details, see <http://hkcscheer.net>

For enquiries concerning the existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality, please contact Ms Athena Liu, Executive Officer (General & Committee) *qua* Departmental Racial Co-ordinator via the following channels –

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**Marine Department**  
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