

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1608)**

Head: (100) Marine Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Infrastructure  
Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Carol YUEN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

As shown under relevant programme, the actual container throughput in the territory for 2021 was 17.8 million twenty-foot equivalent units and that for 2022 was 16.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units. While the figures continued to show a decreasing trend year by year, the estimated throughput for 2023 was indicated as a figure not possible to estimate under relevant programme. Nevertheless, container throughput serves as an important referential indicator in the compilation of estimates for programmes such as Port Services, Local Services and Services to Ships.

In this connection, will the Government advise on the following: Why is the container throughput for 2023 a figure not possible to estimate; Will the Government communicate with the industry to conduct analysis and estimation for the container throughput for 2023?

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The maritime sector is highly affected by global economy. Hong Kong Port is also subject to severe competition from other ports in the region. It is generally expected that the trading environment and outlook for container throughput in 2023 will be challenging. Geopolitical tensions may also add to the downside risks. Given the uncertainties surrounding the various external factors, it is not possible to provide an estimate for the container throughput for 2023.

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