

## **The Hong Kong Shipping Registry**

Ship registration is a process to give a ship a "nationality" for sailing internationally. When a ship is registered in a particular state or administration, that state or administration has the right to regulate the ship under international conventions and relevant local legislation. As ships registered in a state or administration must comply with international maritime safety and environmental protection as well as pollution prevention requirements, the ship registration system not only protects the safety of ships and seafarers, but also plays a crucial role in preserving the marine environment as well as maritime transportation and security.

In this issue of the Hong Kong Maritime News, we will introduce to you the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) in the Marine Department (MD)!

In fact, Hong Kong has over 150 years of experience in ship registration and ship inspection. The main services provided by the MD to ocean going vessels include ship registration, crew registration and protection, examinations and certification of competency of seafarers, provision of technical support for Hong Kong registered ships, as well as conducting investigations into marine accidents and incidents involving Hong Kong registered ships.

Since its establishment in 1990, the HKSR has been notable for its efficient, high-quality and safe fleet. It has risen to the world's fourth largest shipping registry (in terms of gross tonnage), with a fleet of approximately 2,350 ships and a total gross tonnage of about 127 million.

### **Info box:**

- The HKSR was established in 1990 pursuant to the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance (Cap.415).
- Under Article 125 of the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is authorised by the Central People's Government to continue to maintain a shipping register and issue related certificates under the name of "Hong Kong, China" in accordance with the HKSAR legislation.
- Relying on the well-established quality assurance system and the long-standing close cooperative relationships with shipowners and companies to jointly improve ship quality, ships registered in Hong Kong enjoy excellent reputation of high quality with a low port state detention rate. Taking the data in the first three quarters of 2023 as an example, the port state control detention rate of Hong

Kong registered ships stood at 0.8%, which is significantly lower than the global average of 3.4%!

- **Advantages of HKSR**

**Low registration fee with high quality services**

Ships registered in Hong Kong are only required to pay a registration fee and an annual tonnage fee, which are set on “cost recovery” basis to cover operational costs and service enhancement, such as the establishment of one-stop service e-platform and e-certificates. The fee charges of the HKSR are comparatively lower than some major flags.

**Adoption of low tax regime**

As one of the lowest tax regimes in the world, Hong Kong has a simple tax system. Ships registered in Hong Kong are not required to pay profits tax on their international trades. At the same time, Hong Kong has signed bilateral double taxation agreements with 47 major trading partners, allowing maritime enterprises to retain a significant portion of their operating revenues, which contributes to a business-friendly environment.

**Uniqueness and business-friendly environment**

Hong Kong has excellent ship management, financial, communication as well as legal services and support. Besides, Hong Kong is the only bilingual common law jurisdiction, providing shipping companies with a leading edge in handling shipping and commercial transactions.

In addition, strategically located with a comprehensive transportation network covering air, sea and land, Hong Kong is a prominent international maritime centre and a transshipment hub port, which is closely connected with Mainland China and the Greater Bay Area. At present, over 1,100 port and maritime-related companies located in Hong Kong provide a gamut of high-quality shipping services. Ships registered in Hong Kong can easily access to a wide range of talents, customers and business partners, which benefits all enterprises.

**All-rounded support**

To further enhance the services and competitiveness of the HKSR to meet with the demand of the global shipping industry, the MD has provided regional desk services in 7 major cities which are Shanghai, London, Singapore, Sydney, San Francisco, Toronto and Tokyo. With the advent of the regional desk services, the MD renders technical and professional support round the clock to Hong Kong shipowners and ship operators with ships registered in Hong Kong.

- **Publicity and promotion of HKSR**

To promote the HKSR's excellent services in the international arena, the MD actively engaged in close liaison with existing shipowners and proactively participated in large overseas promotional events such as large-scale international maritime exhibitions, company visits, as well as making a presence in popular maritime publications, to open up markets with growth potential such as the Middle East region and ASEAN countries, with a view to reinforcing HKSR's leading position in the world and exploring new opportunities in shipping industry.

#### **Promotion in Middle East**

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) statistics, the fleet size (in terms of deadweight tonnage) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region is increasing annually by 6%. In view of this, the HKSR proactively develops the market in Middle East.

- **May**

During the first visit to Dubai, representatives of the HKSR met with staff of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Dubai (Dubai ETO) and Invest Hong Kong, and grasped the opportunity to visit the China Classification Society, Dubai Branch (CCS Dubai) to learn about the maritime development and opportunities in the GCC region. MD officers also participated in the SeaTrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2023 and visited eight local companies to promote the advantages of registering ships in Hong Kong.

The trip was successful in attracting some Middle East enterprises to register their ships in the HKSR. The first ship has already joined the Hong Kong flag in August 2023 and more ships are expected to be registered in Hong Kong in the upcoming future.

- **September**

The HKSR visited the Middle East again in September to participate in the Saudi Maritime Congress 2023, the annual flag-ship event in GCC region, and set up a HKSR booth in the 2-day exhibition. The exhibition attracted over 7,300 attendees and over 500 people visited the booth set up by HKSR, thereby enabling the HKSR in building friendly contacts with relevant companies.

During the stay, the HKSR met with major shipping companies in Saudi Arabia, including Bahri, the largest state-owned shipping company, and Bihar, the largest privately-owned shipping company.

Representatives of the HKSR met with the Vice President of Bahri, Mr. Aimn A. Alsadoun, and introduced the services provided by the HKSR. Mr. Alsadoun recognised the HKSR's high quality fleet, which matches with Bahri's commitment to run a high standard and safe fleet as a state-owned company.

Representatives of the HKSR also met with the General Manager of Bihar, Mr. Mohamed Abdelkader Jazzar, and briefed him on its services. Mr. Jazzar expressed interest in the HKSR's all-rounded and cost-effective services package and informed the MD of their plan about fleet expansion.

Moreover, the MD was invited to participate as a panelist in the "Maritime Logistics Forum - Vision 2030, Infrastructure Development, Trade and Regulations" to share with participants insights on HK's institutional framework and future development in the maritime industry.

The MD sponsored a networking reception where a promotional video of HKSR was showcased, and media interviews were conducted, with a view to increasing the exposure of HKSR in the GCC region and letting the shipowners in the Gulf area know more about the HKSR.

The reception sponsored by the HKSR was graced by the presence of the CCS Dubai, the Dubai ETO and a number of Dubai companies, and successfully attracted more than 200 participants.

The MD's representatives took the opportunity to give interviews to the local

media in Dubai. The broadcast of the interview on Seatrade Maritime website and YouTube has helped the promotion. Interested parties are welcome to watch the video: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/event-news/hksr-expands-global-reach-new-regional-desks>.

### **Promotion in ASEAN**

In accordance with UNCTAD statistics, the fleet size (in terms of DWT) of the ASEAN region has increased by 3.9% per annum in recent years. The MD will continue to promote the work of HKSR to ASEAN countries.

- **January**

The Regional Desk (Singapore) of the HKSR and the InvestHK participated in the “Ship Financing Seminar” for Malaysia Shipowners’ Association in Kuala Lumpur. Local bankers were invited to share ship financing experience and the HKSR took this opportunity to introduce its mortgage registration/ transfer/ discharge services to the local industry.

- **July**

The HKSR participated in the 3-day Exhibition and Presentation in “Vietnam Marine & Offshore Expo (VIMOX) 2023” held in Hanoi. The event served as a platform to promote not only the HKSR, but also other high-end maritime services. Around 2,000 guests attended the event, according to the organiser’s statistics.

- **August**

The HKSR and InvestHK also co-hosted an exhibition booth and made presentations at the “Exhibition and Presentation in Indonesia Marine and Offshore Expo (IMOEX)2023” in Batam, Indonesia. The event attracted over 5,000 guests, as reported by the organiser.

The HKSR also approached the largest shipowner in Malaysia, MISC Berhad, Eaglestar, which has already taken delivery of its first HK-flagged LNG carrier as a third-party manager in the fourth quarter of 2023. MISC has shown keen interest in registering their future new-built ships with HKSR. The MD is working closely with Eaglestar to explore the feasibility of providing professional training on LNG bunkering to stakeholders in the trade.

## **Promotion in Europe**

- **January**

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO) held a Chinese New Year Reception in London in January 2023. The Regional Desk (London) of the HKSR grasped the opportunity to establish connections and communication channels with major member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) by attending IMO meetings and events. The HKSR invited the key officials of IMO secretariat, delegates of member states of the IMO, shipowners, recognised organisations and non-governmental organisations to attend the event and promote Hong Kong and the HKSR's services.

- **March**

The London ETO held a reception at the IMO in March 2023 to promote Hong Kong's position as a prominent international maritime centre. About 200 guests attended the reception, including delegations from IMO Member States, top representatives of international organisations, and key representatives of shipowners in London.

- **June**

The London ETO held a Summer Celebration Reception in London. The HKSR invited some shipowners and ship managers with whom we have established connections to attend the event and promote its services.

The HKSR participated in the Nor-shipping 2023 and Shipowners Forum in Oslo Norway, to explore the latest trends and developments on new maritime technologies, particularly on green shipping, the challenges and response on the IMO Green House Gas (GHG) Strategy by shipowners and shipping industry, and established connections with shipowners in the region.

- **October**

The HKSR participated in the 'Maritime Cyprus 2023' Conference in Limassol Cyprus, to tap the views of maritime authorities, shipowners, experts and investors on

the challenges to the shipping industry following the adoption of 2023 IMO GHG Strategy by MEPC 80 of IMO, and their response to the enhanced Strategy. The HKSR established connections with shipowners, ship managers and the Cyprus maritime authority to promote the HKSR's services and Hong Kong ship's flag State quality control system.

The HKSR also participated in maritime/shipping industry events to foster closer relationships with shipowners in UK and European regions, e.g. London International Shipping Week; and visits branch offices of COSCO, Wah-Kwong, MOL and Anglo-Eastern in UK and shipowners in Europe or their representatives on a regular basis.

### **Promotion in China**

Apart from exploring development opportunities in the Middle East, ASEAN countries and Europe, the Regional Desk (Shanghai) of HKSR has continued to strengthen its liaison and collaboration with the ports in the Mainland. The HKSR invites shipping companies to participate in seminars and galas, attends industry events and visits potential shipowners to reach out to major enterprises in the Mainland and build closer relationships with them.

- **Tailor-made advertisements**

### **IMO 75th anniversary special edition**

The MD placed a tailor-made advertisement in the IMO's 75th anniversary commemorative publication. This publication produced 10,000 prints and distributed to members and guests at the IMO and the maritime industry. Parties interested in HKSR's services are invited to contact us at [hksr@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:hksr@mardep.gov.hk).

### **2023 Annual Hong Kong Market Report**

The MD also placed an advertisement in the 2023 Annual Hong Kong Market Report published by the Asia Shipping Media to promote the professional services delivered by HKSR.

- **Looking ahead**

The HKSR and all regional desks will continue to work closely with the industry to

spearhead maritime development. We will step up promotions of the HKSR by reinforcing the connections and relationships with existing shipowners through more frequent business meetings, maritime safety seminars and visits; and reach out to markets with growth potentials through extensive company visits and exhibitions in targeted regions (such as the Middle East and Southeast Asia). To tie in with the digitalisation of the shipping industry, the HKSR will streamline the registration procedures, implement the use of e-certificates and e-logs, and devise competitive financial incentives, such as block registration incentive and green incentives. Furthermore, the HKSR and the InvestHK will leverage on their existing network and make concerted efforts to advocate the use of local maritime services in the realms of financing, maintenance, arbitration and insurance by shipowners and ship managers of Hong Kong registered ships to boost the demand for local maritime services.

The IMO introduces new rules and regulations on international shipping continuously. Through the permanent representatives from the HKSARG at the IMO as the communication channel, Hong Kong shipowners can liaise with the IMO and voice out the concerns of the industry on hot issues such as shipboard carbon emission reduction, and obtain first-hand information on the latest regulations.

### **MD promotes marine safety**

- **Safety first and obey the law when attending major events at sea**

Although Hong Kong has a very busy harbour, major events are still held at sea from time to time for the enjoyment of the public. When viewing the major events at sea on board the vessel, do you know how to protect yourself?

In fact, major events such as fireworks display and marine racing, always attract a large number of spectator vessels to congregate in a small and narrow area of waters, thereby posing a higher risk of marine accidents. In view of this, MD has vigorously promoted the legislation amendments, which have been enacted since 23 December 2019, to enhance marine safety during major events at sea.

According to the amended legislation, local vessels which are licensed to carry passengers during major events at sea must comply with the following requirements:

1. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult onboard. The accompanying adult must ensure that children aged 2 to under 12 wear suitable

lifejackets at all times

2. Coxswains must provide suitable lifejackets for children or infants to accompanying adult, and demonstrate how to wear the lifejacket
3. The accompanying adult of an infant under the age of 2 must ensure that the safety of the infant would not be prejudiced by not wearing a suitable lifejacket on board the vessel
4. Coxswains must keep a passenger and crew list on board

Coxswains, owners, agents, operators, passengers and adults accompanying children and infants on board must comply with the aforementioned requirements. A person who fails to comply with the requirements commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of HK\$5,000. Passengers should take note of the vessel's emergency exits, locations of lifejackets as well as the ways to wear the lifejackets before the vessel departs.

To enhance the safety awareness of the general public when attending major events at sea, the MD, together with the Police, produced a new set of TV and radio announcements in the public interest (API), promotional pamphlet, poster and banner in December 2023 to remind the public of the safety requirements. Link: [https://www.isd.gov.hk/eng/tvapi/23\\_ms329.html](https://www.isd.gov.hk/eng/tvapi/23_ms329.html)

- **2023 National Fireworks Display**

The National Fireworks Display blossomed over the Victoria Harbour in the evening of 1 October. To ensure marine safety at sea, the Marine Department (MD) strictly enforced marine traffic control and strengthened the inspection of spectator vessels to ensure that safety requirements were met.

On the event day, the Department established a Closed Area in the waters where barges and pontoons for the fireworks and pyrotechnics display were anchored to prohibit vessels from entering the area. A Restricted Area in the Central Harbour was also established to restrict the entry of vessels other than those authorised vessels in order to safeguard navigational safety.

In addition, to protect the safety of passengers, the MD, together with the Marine

Police, stepped up inspections of spectator vessels before the event to ensure that the vessels met the safety requirements, sufficient life-saving appliances were provided on board the vessels and children wore lifejackets throughout the journey.

After the event, officers from the MD and the Police at the viewing area directed the dispersion of the vessels, and regulated the berthing of spectator vessels at public landing steps and piers for safe and orderly disembarkation of the passengers.

MD patrol officers inspected a total of 250 vessels before the fireworks display. Six pleasure vessels were found having contravened marine legislation, including speeding, failing to produce the policy of insurance for inspection, failing to maintain sufficient life-saving and fire-fighting apparatus, failing to keep a written charter agreement on board, failing to keep full license on board, without a pleasure vessel operator on board and contravention of conditions of licence. The MD will prosecute these vessels in accordance with established procedures.

- **Cross-Harbour Race**

Cross Harbour Swimming Race was held on 12 November 2023. 2,860 swimmers set off from Wan Chai Golden Bauhinia Square Public Pier and splashed their way to the finishing point at the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui.

To ensure the safety of swimmers and the smooth running of the event in the busy harbour, Marine Department (MD) officers provided advices to stakeholders during the preparation process and implemented marine traffic control measures on the competition day.

During the event, the MD deployed patrol launches to command on-scene marine traffic while the Vessel Traffic Centre closely monitored ocean-going and river-trade vessels and broadcast safety messages to the vessels through VHF channels to prevent vessels from entering the track. The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre was also standing by to handle emergency situations.

- **Combating improper use of bright light fishing activities**

Some fishing boats will make use of bright light to attract fish to increase fish catch. However, if the bright light is not used properly, it may affect the safety of navigation. In view of this, the Marine Department (MD) collaborates with relevant

departments to conduct joint operations against improper use of bright light for fishing in various waters of Hong Kong to ensure the order of marine traffic and navigation safety of vessels.

In August, September and November 2023, the MD, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted joint operations against improper use of bright light for fishing and illegal fishing activities in the southern and eastern waters of Hong Kong. The MD and the HKPF also conducted a joint operation against improper use of bright light for fishing in the eastern waters of Hong Kong in October 2023. During these operations, two vessels were found to have used bright light improperly for fishing. In addition, the MD has conducted 39 enforcement operations in the waters of southern Lantau Island, southern Lamma Island, south of Hong Kong Island and east of Hong Kong in 2023. 19 fishing vessels were suspected of violating relevant marine legislation. The MD is taking follow-up actions.

To ensure the vessels in Hong Kong waters use bright light for fishing in a proper way, the MD also communicates with fishermen organisations from time to time to explain relevant legislation, and distributes publicity and educational materials. Relevant information on proper use of bright light for fishing is uploaded onto the website of the MD: [www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/materials/pdf/publf.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/materials/pdf/publf.pdf). The Department will continue stepping up patrols to combat improper use of bright light for fishing.

**Tips:**

- According to the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Cap. 313A), vessels are allowed to use bright light for fishing in the areas where bright light fishing is permitted. However, the use of bright light on any vessel for the purpose of fishing or attracting fish in Hong Kong waters shall comply with the requirements of Cap. 313A and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation (Cap. 548F), i.e. a bright light shall be so constructed, shaded, installed and used that no light emitted from it shall be visible, whether directly or by reflection from any source other than sea surface, above a horizontal plane passing through the lowest edge of the light source.
- A person who contravenes the related legislation commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000 upon conviction.

**MD attracts and nurtures talents**

The Marine Department (MD) has spared no effort in promoting the maritime industry. With an aim to attracting more young people to join the shipping industry, apart from arranging visits for different schools and organisations, the Department also organises regular career talks for young people to let them learn more about the work of the Department as well as the diversified career paths in the maritime industry.

- **Marine Department Youth Group**

As mentioned in the last issue of the Hong Kong Maritime News, the MD has newly established the Marine Department Youth Group (MDYG) to enhance young people's understanding of the maritime industry through organising activities regularly. In September 2023, the MDYG launched a dedicated website to disseminate information to its members on a regular basis, with a view to assisting young people in joining the maritime industry. Interested parties can fill in the membership form via the following website (<https://mdyouthgroup.mardep.gov.hk/en/home/index.html>) to receive the latest information of the industry.

### **Visit to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

A visit to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum was arranged by the MDYG on 25 August for its members. A tour guide introduced the history of maritime development in Asia, China and Hong Kong, as well as the roles of these places in the shipping industry, to stimulate the members' interests in the maritime work.

### **Talk on MD's grades**

On 10 October 2023, the MDYG attended a talk at the Hong Kong Sea School. During the talk, the MD's representatives introduced the Assistant Marine Officer and Marine Inspector II grades as well as the work of the Department, to help enhance the students' understanding about the different career paths of the maritime industry.

### **Career Talk in PolyU**

To promote the diverse seafaring professions, two Assistant Marine Officers of the Marine Department, Messrs. Karl Lau and Kelvin Tsang, shared their career development experience with a group of undergraduate students pursuing Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in International Shipping and Transport Logistics

at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 18 September 2023. Through sharing their own experiences, the officers deepened the students' understanding of the maritime industry.

- **MD Summer Interns in the pursuit for seafaring career**

The Marine Department (MD) holds the Summer Internship Programme every year to provide an opportunity for post-secondary students to acquire hands-on experience in working with Marine Officers, Surveyors of Ships or other grades. This annual programme aims to expand the students' knowledge on the MD and shipping industry as well as providing assistance to their career planning.

Four students from post-secondary institutions spent their summer as interns in MD in July and August 2023. They were deployed to various sections of MD, including the Vessel Traffic Section (VTS), the Harbour Patrol Section, the Training Section, and the Administration Section. Their internship ended with a sharing session on 29 August, in which the interns shared what they learned and achieved during the summer internship programme. The two Deputy Directors of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat and Ms. Lydia Lam, together with Assistant Director/Port Control, Mr. Lai Chi-Tung, attended the sharing session.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Wong Sai-fat said he hoped that the Summer Internship Programme would allow the students to understand the work of MD, hence providing them with some ideas about their future career development. He also encouraged the students interested in pursuing maritime career to work hard and equip themselves after the programme with a view to contributing to a better future for the maritime industry in Hong Kong.

Before the sharing session ended, Ms. Lydia Lam thanked the students for their fruitful sharing. She invited the students to share with their friends the working experience in MD and encouraged them to join the MDYG to grasp the latest development of the shipping industry. Besides, she expressed the hope of welcoming more new blood in MD in the coming years.

Michelle worked in Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC), Training Section and HPS during the internship. Each division had its unique responsibilities and work that allowed her to acquire a diverse range of knowledge. She indicated 'The officers in the Department were very friendly and they shared with me their insight and own working experiences

at sea, which deepened my understanding of the work in the shipping industry. During my work in HPS, I had an opportunity to get onboard and witness the enforcement process of marine legislation. The internship has undoubtedly influenced my career choices after graduation and I hope I can be part of MD's team one day.'

Alex said, 'I followed Marine Inspectors for daily patrol when I worked in HPS. This helped me learn about their daily operations and prosecution processes. Besides, working in VTC enabled me to observe the real-life practices of vessel traffic control, which included regulating and recommending vessels to use a more appropriate route. I also gained a better understanding of Hong Kong harbour facilities, such as mooring buoys, lighted buoys, anchorage areas, and pilot boarding places and so on. Working in MD has not only broadened my horizons, but also enabled me to understand the role and duties of MD as a regulator in the Hong Kong maritime sector.'

Owen, 'At the very beginning of my internship, I was assigned to work in HPS and assisted in handling the work of bright light fishing, such as updating the content of the leaflet. In addition, I also worked in the Training Centre, where I was able to experience the sight and feeling of steering a vessel, and realise the complexity of designing a ship in a Simulator System.'

The most impressive part of the internship was the visit to two shipping companies, which helped me understand that the shipping industry is not limited to seafarers, but also includes ship brokers, ship insurance agents, and ship operation managers, which enhanced my knowledge of the career path of the shipping industry.'

Apart from interns from the Marine Officer grade, MD also recruited an intern to support administration duties. During her internship at Administration Branch, Alice prepared the Port Welfare Committee Annual Report and updated the potential donors' list. 'Through the internship, I recognised the active and close collaboration between MD and other organisations, including charitable institutions and shipping companies, which I believe is one of the keys to facilitating the development of maritime industry.'

Through the programme, the interns saw for themselves MD's efforts in maintaining marine safety. They also expressed their thankfulness to the management for offering them such valuable learning opportunities.

- **Industry Attachment Program for AMOs and ASoSs**

The Marine Department (MD) started recruiting Assistant Marine Officers (AMOs) and Assistant Surveyors of Ships (ASoSs) in 2018. To enable officers of these two professional grades to accumulate shipping experience and acquire professional knowledge, MD has arranged newly recruited AMOs and ASoSs to various renowned shipping entities for a 6-month industry attachment since 2022. Through this industry attachment program, AMOs and ASoSs can build a solid foundation for their future professional development in MD.

In this issue, we have five AMOs and ASoSs, who finished their industry attachments in July and August 2023, to share with us their first-hand experience.

Kelvin Tsang, AMO, attached to Fleet Management Ltd. 'I am glad to have the opportunity to work in various departments in the shipping company. By exposing myself to different areas of the shipping business, I could learn about the daily operations of the company in handling of corporate management matters, roles and responsibilities of vessels owners, and third-party management. Through the attachment program, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the International Safety Management (ISM) code, International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standard, crew manning policy, and seafarer recruitment strategy and so on.

In addition, I also participated in the internal survey for a tanker, which helped broaden my knowledge of tanker operations, technical knowledge related to ship's operations and the latest developments in ship technologies, as well as knowledge of tanker operation and commercial practices. These experiences equipped me with valuable skills and insights for my future career in the maritime field.'

Kyle Cheuk, AMO, attached to Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd. 'During the industry attachment, I worked in various departments, such as Technical Department, Operations Department, and Quality, and Health and Safety Department. Working in different departments not only enhanced my adaptability, problem solving skill and critical thinking capability, but also enabled me to understand the functions and operations of a fleet management company.

I was also able to work closely with experienced professionals, who shared with me their working experience and knowledge. This allowed me to keep pace with the current situation and future development trends of the maritime industry, and enriched my understanding of the work of the shipping industry. I think that the

experience will be beneficial to my future work in the MD.'

Assistant Surveyors of Ships, Mr. Morgan Yeung (fourth right), Terry Yiu (third right), Allen Yung (fourth left), finished their industry attachments in China Classification Society (CCS) in August.

Morgan Yeung said, 'The industry attachment program has deepened my understanding of the management and organisational system of CCS, and expanded my knowledge of the process of statutory certifications and services conducted by recognised organisations, as well as the process of shipbuilding projects. I also visited shipyards and factories, which helped me familiarise myself with the industrial process and quality control system of modern shipbuilders and product manufacturers, and deepened my understanding of the ship design drawing and plan approval works, which will be beneficial to my ship surveying work and career development in MD.'

Terry Yiu said, 'During the 6-month industry attachment, I became familiar with the management and organisational system of CCS, including the plan approvals, statutory certification, new constructions in shipyard, product inspection, new technologies, as well as safety and environmental standards of various marine equipment components and systems. The industry attachment program provides me with an excellent opportunity to develop my interpersonal and communication skills, which will facilitate my professional development in the MD and my ship inspection work in the future.'

Allen Yung indicated, 'During the industry attachment in CCS, I was allowed to gain practical insights and firsthand exposure to various departments within CCS, including the Plan Approval Department, Ship in Service Department, Newbuilding and Offshore Engineering Department, and Product Department. Each department presented unique learning opportunities to me, deepened my understanding of the shipbuilding industry and shaped my professional growth.

In addition, the guidance, support and mentorship provided by CCS professionals deepened my technical knowledge of the shipbuilding industry and fostered my passion to upholding the highest standards in the maritime sector. The knowledge and skills that I have attained from this attachment program will undoubtedly lay a solid foundation for my future endeavors in the maritime industry, and I am excited to contribute to the advancement of shipbuilding and maritime services with the newly-gained knowledge.'

### **Hong Kong Maritime Week 2023**

Hong Kong Maritime Week 2023 (HKMW 2023), organised by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, was successfully concluded on 25 November 2023. The theme of this year is "Recharging the Maritime Industry". About 50 enjoyable events, including forums, seminars, celebrations, visits and exhibitions, were held smoothly during the seven-day Maritime Week. The HKMW 2023 not only served to promote Hong Kong as a preferred base for maritime business to members of the international and Hong Kong maritime industries, but also raised the public's awareness of the economic contributions brought about by the Hong Kong's maritime and port industries.

To tie in with the HKMW, the Marine Department (MD) also hosted various activities, including visits to Government Dockyard (GD), Aids to Navigation and Mooring Unit (ANMU), the Green Island Lighthouse, the Harbour Patrol Section (HPS), as well as demonstrations of sea cleaning. By arranging the various activities, the Department hopes that the public can better understand the work and services provided by the Department.

Please visit [www.hkmw.hk](http://www.hkmw.hk) to have a view of the various activities!

On 21 November, 36 visitors visited the ANMU and the Green Island Lighthouse to learn the importance of various aids to navigation in safe navigation of mariners.

On 23 November, 32 visitors gathered at the GD to view the repair and maintenance work of government vessels. They also visited the MD Training Center, where they had the opportunity to experience the feeling of piloting a vessel through the ship simulation system, and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of maritime traffic safety.

On 24 November, 26 visitors visited MD's HPS to learn about how HPS enforces marine legislation, and responds to marine emergencies within Hong Kong waters to maintain smooth operations of the port and safety of shipping.

On 25 November, the Pollution Control Unit of the MD conducted a demonstration on the cleaning of oil discharges into sea and scavenging of marine floating refuse in the waters off Central Pier No. 9. The demonstration aimed to inform

members of the public about the Department's efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of the sea, and simultaneously educated them the importance of keeping our harbour clean.

- **M.V. Yu Kun of Dalian Maritime University visits Hong Kong**

To enhance bilateral exchange and co-operation between the maritime industry of Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, the Hong Kong Seamen's Union, and the Dalian Maritime University (DMU) Hong Kong and Macau Alumni Association, invited the M.V. Yu Kun to visit Hong Kong during the Hong Kong Maritime Week 2023. The vessel was berthed at the Ocean Terminal at Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, from 20 to 25 November and was opened to Hong Kong citizens and students interested in maritime industry.

The M.V. Yu Kun opened to the public for 7 days. Speaking at the launching ceremony, the Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen, said that the M.V. Yu Kun served as the highlight of the Maritime Week and provided valuable opportunities for Hong Kong and the Mainland young people interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry to interact with each other.

The delegation of DMU took the opportunity to call on the Marine Department (MD). The Director of MD, Ms. Carol Yuen; the Deputy Director of Marine (1), Mr. Wong Sai-fat; the Deputy Director of Marine (2), Ms. Lydia Lam and the Assistant Director/Local Vessels and Examination, Mr. Shi Qiang welcomed the delegation.

Shan Hong-jun, President of DMU, expressed his gratitude to the MD, and said that the University will continue to work closely with the Hong Kong SAR Government, the shipping industry, as well as the local educational institutions, to support the development of Hong Kong as an international maritime centre.

Furthermore, DMU students on board M.V. Yu Kun visited MD's Vessel Traffic Centre and Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre on 23 November to learn about the department's work in relevant areas.

### **Departmental News**

#### **2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint maritime exercise**

In order to strengthen the search and rescue coordination among Guangdong,

Hong Kong and Macao in response to serious marine accidents and emergency situations, the Macao Marine and Water Bureau, together with the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration, the Zhuhai Maritime Safety Administration, the Marine Department (MD) and the Government Flying Service (GFS) of the HKSAR government as well as other relevant departments and ship companies, organised the “2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint maritime exercise” on 12 September.

The exercise not only tested the organisational co-ordination, decision-making and command capabilities of the maritime search and rescue organisations in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, but also provided hands-on experience for the response members, thereby further enhancing the standard of maritime emergency rescue in the Greater Bay Area.

### **New replacement ship of “HYDRO 2” commences service**

The Marine Department has commissioned its new ship “HYDRO 2” in December 2023 to replace the older vessel which has already been in service for 23 years.

#### **“HYDRO 2” information:**

- Length: 24.9 m
- Breadth: 10.2m
- Draught (full load): 2.47 m
- Maximum speed: 18 knots
- Crew: 12 persons (including four crew operating the vessel)

The “HYDRO 2” is a Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull (SWATH) ship, equipped with the high-resolution multi-beam echo sounding system including the latest Inertial Navigation System. It is also equipped with the Moving Vessel Profiler which enables underway profiling in real time automatically. With the installation of the fin stabilisers, lifting/towing frame on board, it provides a stable environment in carrying out hydrographic survey work. In good weather and sea conditions (up to Sea State 3 sea conditions), the “HYDRO 2” can carry out hydrographic surveys at around 5 to 8 knots in Hong Kong waters.

The maximum speed of the “HYDRO 2” is 18 knots, which ensures the vessel reaches survey areas speedily and sails safely against deteriorating weather conditions (up to Beaufort wind scale 5). It is propelled by two electric motors with power source from 4 diesel engine driven generators which meet IMO Tier II emission requirements.

The electric propulsion system is governed by a power management system onboard to control and monitor the generators according to power consumption and requirements of the power plant to increase energy efficiency.

### **Consul-General of Bangladesh pays courtesy call to MD**

The Consul-General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong, Ms. Israt Ara, and the vice Consul of Bangladesh in Hong Kong, Mr. Md Marzuk Islam, paid a courtesy call to the Marine Department (MD) on 19 October 2023. The Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen and directorate officers briefed them on the key functions and services of the MD, including the Hong Kong Shipping Register, Vessel Traffic Control, Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination. The two parties also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

### **SCS visits MD**

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs. Ingrid Yeung, and the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr. Clement Leung, visited the Marine Department (MD) on 24 August 2023 to meet with its management and frontline staff to understand the operation and latest development of the department. They also met with staff representatives from various grades to exchange views on the concerns raised by staff.

They first visited the Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC) to see for themselves how VTC made use of the third generation vessel traffic services system to maintain surveillance over Hong Kong navigable waters and ensure the safe navigation and smooth sailing at sea.

Subsequently, they toured around the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre and were briefed by duty officers on the co-ordination work during search and rescue operations upon receipt of distress signals from vessels in Hong Kong waters and the South China sea. Finally, they visited the Government Dockyard and the Marine Department Training Centre and listened to the introduction by officers on the repair and maintenance work of the government fleet and training of marine personnel.

### **Annual Marine Pollution Joint Response Exercises**

The Marine Department (MD) together with various government departments conducted the annual marine pollution joint response exercises, code-named Oilex 2023 and Maritime Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) 2023, in the waters west

of Lamma Island on 26 October, to test their marine pollution responses in the event of spillage of oil and HNS in Hong Kong waters.

The joint response exercises were co-ordinated by the MD and the Environmental Protection Department. The participating government departments and organisations included the Fire Services Department, the Government Flying Service, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Government Laboratory and the Civil Aid Service, as well as several oil companies and a pollution control company jointly formed by them.

The response exercises not only provided hands-on experience for response members, but also helped relevant parties to adopt effective emergency response strategy for preventing pollution according to the properties and extents of spilled substances.

### **Typhoon Shelter Cleansing Exercise**

The Marine Department (MD) is committed to 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 special cleanup operation, with resources under the District-led Actions Scheme of the Home Affairs Department, in November 2023 at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter. At the same time, promotional leaflets were distributed by MD officers to remind ship owners and the public to keep the harbour clean.

### **MD Volunteer Team**

- **MD Volunteer Team promotes support for DC election**

The District Council Election is closely related to the well-being of citizens in 18 districts in Hong Kong. The MD volunteer team, led by senior officials of the Transport and Logistics Bureau and the MD, went to Yuen Long Town Centre and Tin Shui Wai to appeal to the public to take time to consider the manifestos of the candidates in their own districts, and to vote on 10 December to elect District Council members who will work pragmatically for the benefit of the public, so as to start a new chapter for good governance at the district level.

The Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-san and Political Assistant to the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Alfred Chan, together with the Director of Marine, Ms. Carol Yuen; the Deputy Director of Marine (1), Mr. Wong

Sai-fat, and colleagues of the volunteer team talked with members of the public as well as distributing leaflets in Yuen Long Town Centre on 30 November, urging them to vote with their family members on 10 December.

On 29 November, the Deputy Director of Marine (2), Ms. Lydia Lam, led the MD volunteer team to Tin Shui Wai to call on the public to vote on the District Council Election Day on 10 December.

- **Charity activities**

The Marine Department's (MD) volunteer team actively take part in activities hosted by community organisations and various voluntary groups to help the needy and to foster a supportive and inclusive society.

On 16 September, nine MD colleagues participated in a volunteer activity organised by Caritas Elderly Centre in Ngau Tau Kok. The volunteer team showed their care and support to the elderly through visiting and distributing Mid-Autumn Festival goodie bags to them at their Ngau Tau Kok homes.

Together with the volunteers of Caritas Elderly Centre, the MD's volunteer team visited the elderly living alone in Ngau Tau Kok before Mid-autumn Festival to show their care and support.

### **Pacific Basin Soccer 6s 2023**

Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd. is a long-standing quality partner with the Hong Kong Shipping Registry and has been working closely with the Marine Department (MD) in promoting the Hong Kong Shipping Registry and cultivating talents in the maritime industry.

In October 2023, the Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd. resumed organising the Pacific Basin Soccer 6s. The MD soccer team took part in the match to compete with teams of the shipping industry and relevant service providing companies, to enhance the close ties and co-operation between the MD and the shipping industry.