

HONG KONG MARITIME NEWS 香港海事通訊



Issue
95
第九十五期

August 2026
2026年8月



~Hot Picks~

- ◆ MD is fully committed to promoting the development of yacht economy
- ◆ MD actively encourages the industry to adopt green maritime fuels
- ◆ MD continuously fosters external cooperation and exchanges





MD is fully committed to promoting the development of yacht economy

► Marine Department Implements Cross-boundary Facilitation Measures for Yachts

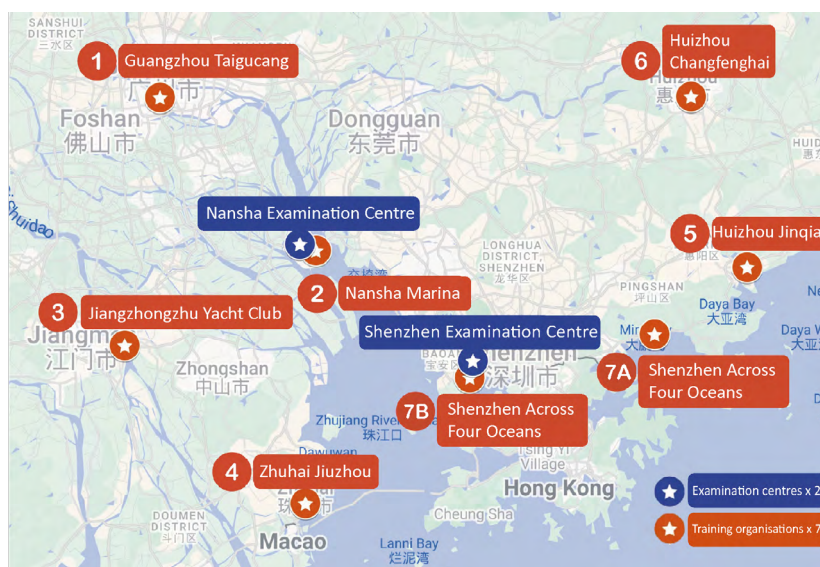
The 2025 Policy Address outlined plans to develop the yacht economy and capitalise Hong Kong's advantages for well-positioning it to become a yacht hub in Asia. On 29 June, the Marine Department (MD) launched three cross-boundary facilitation measures for yachts. By streamlining vetting procedures and enhancing port formality efficiency, the measures optimise existing policies for visiting yachts, thereby attracting more yachts from the Greater Bay Area and around the world to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has long allowed overseas yachts to visit. Prior to entering and navigating within Hong Kong waters, visiting yachts shall complete the required formalities and obtain permission from MD. To relax the requirements for visiting yachts, MD has introduced three facilitating measures, with details as follows:

(1) Facilitating yacht masters in obtaining the required qualifications

To safeguard the safety of all port users, in addition to fulfilling the certification requirements of their vessel's flag state administration, operators of visiting yachts must pass the Hong Kong Waters Local Knowledge Examination before navigating freely in Hong Kong waters. The examination ensures that operators are familiar with port operations and safety knowledge, including local principal fairways, prohibited anchorage areas, speed restricted zones, height restrictions of bridges at sea and ferry routes.

To facilitate Chinese Mainland operators in obtaining the required qualification prior to arrival in Hong Kong, MD has authorised relevant organisations in the Chinese Mainland to conduct the Local Knowledge Examination and has approved seven Chinese Mainland training institutions to provide recognised courses for visiting yacht operators. The first batch of examination and training courses were conducted successfully in the Chinese Mainland. MD will extend the measure to overseas in due course.

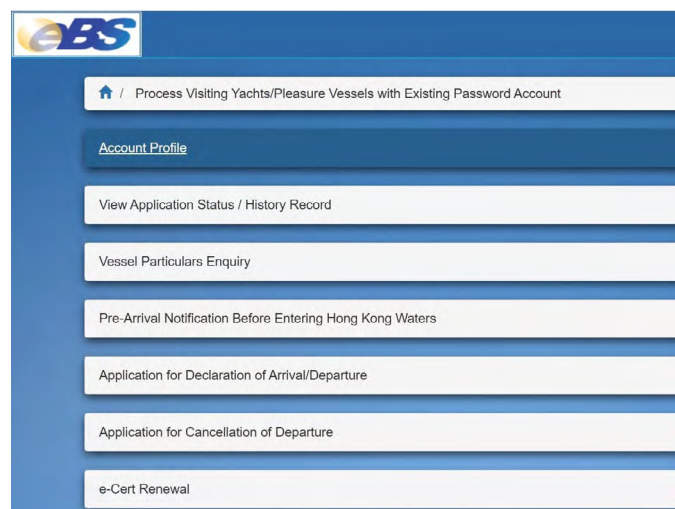




(2) Enhancing the Electronic Business System (eBS)

To facilitate visiting yachts in handling port formalities for both vessels and crew members, MD has leveraged technology to enhance the user-friendliness of eBS. Owners or masters may now register personal eBS accounts and submit information in a one-stop manner to MD, the Immigration Department and the Department of Health, thereby improving the efficiency of port formalities handled by these departments.

Under the enhanced eBS, visiting yacht owners and masters may directly submit the Pre-Arrival Notification to apply for permission to enter Hong Kong waters, report the arrival of the vessel, apply for free navigation within Hong Kong waters for pleasure purposes, apply for anchoring at a designated anchorage, obtain port clearance and settle the relevant fees. With all port formalities for visiting yachts now available online, owners or masters (or their agents) are no longer required to attend a District Marine Office in person to complete the procedures.

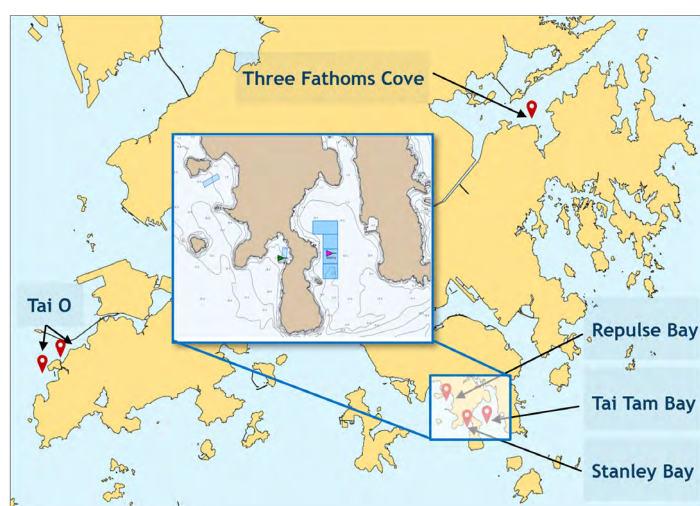




(3) Relaxing berthing requirements for visiting yachts

To moderately relax the berthing requirement for visiting yachts, MD has specified five designated anchorage areas in Hong Kong waters that are suitable for visiting yachts to anchor (located at Stanley Bay, Tai Tam Bay, Repulse Bay, Three Fathoms Cove in Sai Kung and Tai O). Visiting yachts are no longer required to reserve berths at privately-operated yacht clubs or piers, and may navigate safely and orderly within Hong Kong waters and anchor at designated anchorage areas. All designated anchorage areas are located near general navigation waters and popular pleasure boating areas.

To ensure effective management of the designated anchorage areas and maintain navigational safety in Hong Kong waters, MD has established the Dynamic Yacht Monitoring System. By adopting smart technology, the number and distribution of visiting yachts are calculated based on their size and draft as well as the anchorage usage, while the movements of visiting yachts within the designated anchorages are monitored in real time. Visiting yachts utilising the designated anchorage areas must be equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) and a Very High Frequency (VHF) radio, enabling MD to monitor their movements in real time and communicate with them via VHF radio when necessary.





MD has prepared information tips, publicity video and application guidelines, and updated the relevant webpage. Further details on the cross-boundary facilitation measures for yachts are available on MD's website (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/public-services/port-services/notes-ymaster/index.html>). The promotional leaflet has also been uploaded onto MD's website (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/publications/pdf/materials/setsailhk.pdf>) for viewing.



► Marine Department and Hong Kong Shipowners Association Jointly Host “2026 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony”

The Marine Department (MD) and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) jointly hosted the “2026 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony” on 12 June to express gratitude for the continuous support of shipowners and shipping companies, and to promote the services of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) and the HKSOA.



The Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-sun (front row, fifth right); the Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat (front row, fourth right); the Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr. Richard Hext (front row, fifth left); the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang (back row, third left); and the Managing Director of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Ms. Sandy Chan (back row, centre), pictured with Legislative Council Members, members of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Development Board, and committee members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association.

Officiating and speaking at the luncheon, the Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-sun, noted that Hong Kong possesses unique institutional strength under “One Country, Two Systems”. With its bilingual common law system, the free flow of capital, and its distinct roles as “super connector” and “super value-adder”, Hong Kong continues to stand at the forefront of the international shipping industry.

In addition, he brought promising news for shipowners, announcing MD’s launch of the “Port Dues Incentive Scheme for Green Maritime Fuel-related Vessels” and the “Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme”. These schemes provide concessions for ocean-going vessels powered by or bunkering green maritime fuels in Hong Kong, and for green vessels registered in Hong Kong respectively. The initiatives aim to help reduce the cost of transitioning to green maritime fuels for the shipping industry, accelerate the green transformation of Hong Kong fleets, and expedite the development of Hong Kong into a green port.



The Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-sun, delivered the opening remarks at the “2026 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony”.



Mr. Liu Chun-sun; the Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat; the Chairman of the HKSOA, Mr. Richard Hext, and other government officials presented a number of awards to winning shipping companies in recognition of their outstanding performance over the past year in pursuing high-quality Hong Kong-registered ships and achieving high ratings under the international standards on decarbonisation formulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The awards also commended the masters and crew for their bravery in maritime rescue operations, and praised shipping companies for their steadfast support in nurturing young maritime talent in Hong Kong.

A special award, the “2026 MD-WMMF ESG Award”, was first introduced this year to encourage more Hong Kong shipowners and operators to actively champion green and environmental practices and social responsibilities by adopting the World Maritime Merchants Forum (WMMF) Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Rating Standards 2.0.

Jointly organised by MD and the HKSOA, the luncheon cum award presentation ceremony is an annual flagship event for Hong Kong’s maritime industry. Around 230 representatives from the shipping sector and distinguished guests attended this year’s event, reflecting the industry’s recognition and support for this significant occasion.



The Marine Department and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association jointly organised the “2026 Joint Luncheon cum Award Presentation Ceremony”, drawing about 230 representatives from the shipping sector and distinguished guests to attend the event.



The list of awardees is as follows (in alphabetical order):

Award for the shipowner with the highest gross tonnage (GT) on the HKSR in 2025

- China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited

Award for the shipowner placing the most GT on the HKSR in 2025

- Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.

2026 MD-WMMF ESG Award

- A.P. Moller - Maersk A/S
- China Merchants Energy Shipping Co., Ltd.
- COSCO Shipping Holdings Co., Ltd.
- Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd.
- SITC International Holdings Company Limited

Award for outstanding performance in Port State Control (PSC) for the year of 2025

- Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited
- COSCO Shipping Bulk Co., Ltd.
- Fleet Management Limited
- Goldbeam International Ltd.
- Hong Kong Ming Wah Ship Management Company Limited
- Jiangsu Ocean Shipping Bulk Company Limited
- Maersk A/S
- Ocean Longevity Shipping & Management Co., Ltd.
- Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- Shanghai Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd.
- SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
- Wah Kwong Ship Management (Hong Kong) Limited



Green Fleet Award in 2025

- Maersk A/S
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
- Swire Shipping Pte. Ltd.

Award for Bravery for the year of 2025

- Maersk A/S, on behalf of all the crew members of MV MAERSK CHACHAI
- Maersk A/S, on behalf of all the crew members of MV NICOLAI MAERSK
- Hong Kong Ming Wah Shipping Company Ltd. on behalf of all the crew members of MV ORE HONG KONG

Award for Company Recruiting the Most Hong Kong Sea-going Cadets in 2025

- Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.
- Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited
- Wah Kwong Ship Management (Hong Kong) Limited



Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



The Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Liu Chun-sun (right), presented the award for the shipowner with the highest GT on the HKSR in 2025 to China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited

Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Liu Chun-sun (right) presented the award for the shipowner placing the most GT on the HKSR in 2025 to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.

Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



The Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat (right), presented the 2026 MD - WMMF ESG Award to A.P. Moller - Maersk A/S

Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (right) presented the 2026 MD - WMMF ESG Award to China Merchants Energy Shipping Co., Ltd.

Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (right) presented the 2026 MD - WMMF ESG Award to COSCO Shipping Holdings Co., Ltd.

Joint Luncheon and Award Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (right) presented the 2026 MD - WMMF ESG Award to Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd.



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (right) presented the 2026 MD - WMMF ESG Award to SITC International Holdings Company Limited



The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang (right), presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to COSCO Shipping Bulk Co., Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Fleet Management Limited



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Goldbeam International Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Hong Kong Ming Wah Ship Management Company Limited



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Jiangsu Ocean Shipping Bulk Company Limited



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Maersk A/S



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Ocean Longevity Shipping & Management Co., Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Shanghai Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Mr. Shi Qiang (right) presented the award for outstanding performance in PSC for the year of 2025 to Wah Kwong Ship Management (Hong Kong) Limited



The Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr. Jeffrey Chim (right), presented the Green Fleet Award in 2025 to Maersk A/S



Mr. Jeffrey Chim (right) presented the Green Fleet Award in 2025 to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited



Mr. Jeffrey Chim (right) presented the Green Fleet Award in 2025 to SITC Shipping Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Maersk A/S received the award for Bravery for the year of 2025 on behalf of all the crew members of MV MAERSK CHACHAI from the Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr. Richard Hext (right)



Maersk A/S received the award for Bravery for the year of 2025 on behalf of all the crew members of MV NICOLAI MAERSK from Mr. Richard Hext (right)



Hong Kong Ming Wah Shipping Company Ltd. received the award for Bravery for the year of 2025 on behalf of all the crew members of MV ORE HONG KONG from Mr. Richard Hext (right)



The Assistant Director of Marine/Shipping, Mr. Jerry Tang (right), presented the award for Company Recruiting the Most Hong Kong Sea-going Cadets in 2025 to Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.



Mr. Jerry Tang (right) presented the award for Company Recruiting the Most Hong Kong Sea-going Cadets in 2025 to Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Limited



Mr. Jerry Tang (right) presented the award for Company Recruiting the Most Hong Kong Sea-going Cadets in 2025 to Wah Kwong Ship Management (Hong Kong) Limited



MD actively encourages the industry to adopt green maritime fuels

► Marine Department Launches Two New Incentive Schemes for Green Maritime Fuel-related Vessels

The International Maritime Organization has set a target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions from international shipping by or around 2050, making “low-carbon” and “decarbonisation” the inevitable focal points of the shipping industry’s future development. The Marine Department (MD) launched the Port Dues Incentive Scheme for Green Maritime Fuel-related Vessels and the Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme on 16 June for a period of three years, aiming to attract more vessels to bunker green maritime fuels in Hong Kong and encourage green transformation of Hong Kong fleets.

The Port Dues Incentive Scheme for Green Maritime Fuel-related Vessels provides concessions for ocean-going vessels (OGVs) powered by or bunkering specified green maritime fuels in Hong Kong, and OGVs carrying green maritime fuels for supply in Hong Kong. The green maritime fuels covered under the Scheme include liquefied natural gas (LNG), methanol, ammonia, hydrogen and bio-diesel (blended with at least 20% bio-fuel). Eligible OGVs conducting specified operations throughout their stay in Hong Kong may apply for a reimbursement of their port dues. The amount of incentive is equivalent to 25% or 50% of the port dues levied. Eligible shipowners or their agents shall submit the application form together with the required supporting documents to MD for approval within three months after their vessels’ departure from Hong Kong.

The amounts of incentives applicable to different types of OGVs are set out below:

Category	Specified operations	Amount of incentive (% of port dues levied)
A	OGVs carrying green maritime fuels, other than bio-diesel, for supply in Hong Kong	50%
B	OGVs bunkering green maritime fuels, other than bio-diesel, in Hong Kong	50%
C	OGVs powered by green maritime fuels, other than bio-diesel, in Hong Kong (excluding vessels falling into Categories A and B)	25%
D	OGVs carrying or bunkering bio-diesel (blended with at least 20% bio-fuel) in Hong Kong (excluding vessels falling into Categories A, B and C)	25%

Note: If a vessel qualifies under multiple categories, it shall receive incentives at the highest applicable level.



The Port Dues Incentive Scheme for Green Maritime Fuel-related Vessels encourages the industry to adopt green maritime fuels, which are often more expensive than traditional fuels, and to build up demand for green maritime fuel bunkering services in Hong Kong early. This will in turn attract other players in the green maritime fuel bunkering supply chain, such as bunker suppliers, bunker operators and traders, to establish and expand their operations in Hong Kong. The Government expects this scheme to attract more than 1 000 visits to Hong Kong by green maritime fuel-related vessels.

In addition, MD launched the Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme to provide incentives to green fuel-powered vessels currently or newly registered with the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR). All Hong Kong-registered ships that use green maritime fuels as their primary propulsion fuel (including LNG, methanol, ammonia and hydrogen, but excluding conventional fuels and bio-diesel) are eligible to apply. During the implementation of the scheme, each eligible vessel will be provided with a subsidy of HK\$60,000 once every year, and may enjoy one or at most three years' incentives depending on the timing and duration that the vessel is registered with the HKSR. Each vessel is eligible to receive a maximum subsidy of HK\$180,000. MD will complete the approval and disbursement of incentives within about three months upon receipt of the application and supporting documents. The vessels shall maintain their status as Hong Kong-registered ships on the date the incentive is disbursed.

The Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme is expected to attract about 100 green maritime fuel-powered vessels to register with the HKSR. Alongside the green maritime fuel-powered vessels currently registered in Hong Kong, it is anticipated that about 170 Hong Kong-registered vessels powered by green maritime fuels will benefit from the scheme within three years of implementation. Through this scheme, the Government hopes to encourage green maritime fuel-powered vessels to register in Hong Kong, thereby promoting the green transformation of Hong Kong fleets and further enhancing the overall competitiveness of the HKSR.



Details of the two new incentive schemes for green maritime fuel-related vessels can be found on MD's website (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/public-services/one-stop-services-of-green-fuel-bunkering/incentive-scheme/index.html>).





► Marine Department Launches Quality Bunker Operator Scheme to Enhance Service Quality and Transparency

The Marine Department (MD) officially launched the Quality Bunker Operator Scheme on 3 June to encourage bunker operators of maritime fuels to install and use certified mass flow meter (MFM) systems on their bunker vessels. The Scheme aims to enhance the quality of bunkering services in Hong Kong and the overall competitiveness of the port, thereby further consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre and a major bunkering port.

The Scheme encourages bunker operators to adopt certified MFM systems to enhance measurement accuracy in bunkering operations. Bunker operators of traditional maritime fuels and biodiesel that install and use MFM systems on their bunker vessels, with the MFM systems inspected and certified by an accredited body in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 22192 Standard or equivalent requirements, may apply to MD for inclusion in the Scheme's "List of Quality Bunker Vessels", subject to meeting the relevant technical and operational requirements.

Participation in the Scheme is voluntary. Interested bunker operators may submit relevant information and supporting documents to MD, provided that their bunker vessels meet the basic requirements. Upon review and approval, MD will publish information on the relevant bunker operators and their eligible bunker vessels on its official website for reference by shipping companies and relevant stakeholders.

In addition, MD will mandate the use of MFM on all methanol bunker vessels within this year to ensure that Hong Kong continues to provide high-quality bunkering services in the era of green maritime fuels. Meanwhile, MD will monitor bunker operators to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements under the Scheme when providing bunkering services of conventional fuels and biofuels using MFM, thereby ensuring delivery of quality services.



As an international maritime centre supported by our country, Hong Kong has consistently ranked as the world's seventh-largest, our country's second-largest, and the Greater Bay Area's largest bunkering port for many years, providing reliable and competitive fuel bunkering services to ocean-going vessels from around the world. As the international shipping industry is placing higher demands on fuel delivery accuracy and transaction transparency, service quality and measurement precision in bunkering operations have become key indicators for assessing the global competitiveness of a bunkering port. The Scheme can enhance the accuracy and transparency of bunker measurement, thereby further elevating the overall quality of bunkering services in Hong Kong.

The Introduction of Quality Bunker Operator Scheme and the List of Quality Bunker Operator have been uploaded to MD's website (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/public-services/one-stop-services-of-green-fuel-bunkering/quality-bunker-operator-scheme/index.html>) for viewing.





MD continuously fosters external cooperation and exchanges

► The 10th China Maritime Finance (Dongjiang) International Forum

The 10th China Maritime Finance (Dongjiang) International Forum took place in Tianjin on 23 April. The Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat, together with the General Manager of the Ship Registration and Quality Branch of the Shipping Division, Mr. Eric Lee, attended the opening ceremony.

Themed “Steering Through Waves, Charting a Shared Voyage”, the forum brought together hundreds of representatives from financial institutions, shipping companies, legal service providers and industry think tanks. Participants explored maritime finance innovation, international co-operation and industrial integration, seeking new directions to foster steady progress and win-win development for the industry amid global changes.

In his opening address, Mr. Wong highlighted the promising prospects for co-operation between Hong Kong and Dongjiang in the field of ship registration. He expressed confidence that, upon completion of amendments to the legislation of Hong Kong’s ship registration, it would align seamlessly with the “Dongjiang + Hong Kong” ship leasing model. He added that, by leveraging their respective strengths, the two places could generate strong synergies and contribute Hong Kong’s efforts to the nation’s transformation from a “major shipping country” to a “shipping powerhouse”.



The Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the 10th China Maritime Finance (Dongjiang) International Forum.



During the forum, the Hong Kong Marine Department, the Hong Kong Chamber of Shipping, the Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration (Tianjin MSA), and the Administrative Commission of the Tianjin Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone reached a consensus on policy co-ordination under the “Dongjiang + Hong Kong” framework. The parties are actively studying a mechanism for the transfer of registration of bareboat chartered vessels between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, with the aim of further refining institutional arrangements for cross-boundary asset operations.

During their visit to Tianjin and Beijing from 23 to 24 April, the Marine Department delegation met with Mr. Li Gongliang, the Party Committee Secretary and Director of the Administrative Commission of the Tianjin Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone, and Mr. Li Zhiqiang, the Director of the Tianjin MSA. They exchanged views on the development of the shipping industry and explored avenues to deepen co-operation between the two places.

The delegation, together with the Administrative Commission of the Tianjin Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone and the Tianjin MSA, subsequently paid a joint visit to the Maritime Safety Administration of the People’s Republic of China (China MSA). They held talks with Mr. Xu Wei, the Director General of the China MSA, and engaged in in-depth discussions on issues such as promoting a facilitation mechanism for the transfer of registration of bareboat chartered vessels between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong.

In addition, the delegation visited Huayang Maritime Center in Tianjin and met with the senior management of its Ship Management Division. The delegation introduced the advantages of Hong Kong’s ship registration and sought the company’s views and suggestions on enhancing ship registration services.

The visit not only strengthened ties between the shipping industry of Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland, but also laid a foundation for establishing a facilitation mechanism for the transfer of registration of bareboat chartered vessels between the two places.



► The 4th Plenary Session of the International Hydrographic Organization Assembly

The 4th Plenary Session of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Assembly was successfully convened in Monaco in April. The meeting brought together around 500 representatives from 104 member states to engage in in-depth discussions and decision-making on several key issues concerning the organisation's future development, marking an important milestone for the international hydrographic community.

From 19 to 23 April, the Director General of the Maritime Safety Administration of the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xu Wei, led the Chinese delegation to attend the 4th Plenary Session of the IHO Assembly. The Hydrographer, Mr. Donald Chan, and the Manager of the East Asia Regional Electronic Navigational Charts Coordination Centre, Mr. Ricky Cheung, of the Hydrographic Office of Marine Department (MD), also attended the meeting as members of the Chinese delegation. During the meeting, the Chinese Navy's hydrographic survey ship "Haiyang 26" docked in Monaco and hosted exchange activities including ship visits.



The Hydrographer, Mr. Donald Chan (left), and the Manager of the East Asia Regional Electronic Navigational Charts Coordination Centre, Mr. Ricky Cheung (right) of the Hydrographic Office of MD, attended the 4th Plenary Session of the International Hydrographic Organization Assembly.

This year's Assembly has elected new leadership. Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi of Italy was elected Secretary-General, while Mr. Adam Greenland, National Hydrographer of New Zealand, was elected Director. In the election, China was re-elected as an IHO Council member for 2026-2029, marking its fourth consecutive term since the inaugural Assembly in 2017. The Assembly emphasised that the organisation will continue to strengthen talent cultivation, recruitment and retention to ensure that the IHO can support sustainable ocean management and related international affairs more effectively.

The Assembly adopted an important resolution to establish the first IHO Infrastructure Centre outside its Monaco headquarters, i.e. in Busan, South Korea. This marks the organisation's first overseas office, symbolising the IHO's active efforts to expand its global presence. The Centre will support the development of modern marine products and services, and advance work related to the next-generation Universal Hydrographic Data Model (S-100) standards.



The Assembly also approved the establishment of a Secretariat for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans, with the aim of strengthening coordination and support among nations in seafloor mapping. In addition, the Assembly adopted a long-term strategic plan for 2027 to 2032, identifying digital transformation, S-100 implementation, marine spatial data requirements and global bathymetric capacity as core priorities for future work.

With regard to international cooperation and standards promotion, the Assembly approved a new subscription mechanism for the IHO Data Protection Scheme and extended its cooperation agreement with the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. In addition, the IHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ProtectedSeas, a US-based technology company dedicated to marine conservation, so as to collaborate on advancing work on the S-122 Marine Protected Areas Product Specification.

These decisions highlighted the IHO's continued efforts to expand its influence in global hydrographic surveying and marine information standardisation through institutional enhancements and expanded partnerships.

This Assembly not only successfully completed the transition of leadership, but also laid a solid foundation for the IHO's future institutional and technological development, driving digital integration, standard harmonisation and international collaboration to new heights. By attending the meeting, MD officers gained valuable insights into the latest development trends and standard-setting directions of the IHO. This can enhance the international alignment of local hydrographic services and further promote the high-quality development of Hong Kong's maritime services.



Around 500 representatives from 104 member states of the International Hydrographic Organization gathered for a group photo.

► Xinde Marine Forum Singapore 2026

Organised by Xinde Marine News, the “Xinde Marine Forum Singapore 2026” was successfully held in Singapore on 21 April, serving as one of the highlight events of Singapore Maritime Week 2026.

Under the theme “Navigating Disruption, Setting a New Course”, the forum brought together over 200 shipping industry professionals from the Chinese Mainland, Singapore and around the world, including representatives from shipowners, ship management companies, classification societies and maritime service providers, to explore the evolving global shipping landscape amid regulatory changes, geopolitical uncertainty and decarbonisation pressures. The forum featured a series of keynote speeches and panel discussions, covering key topics such as container shipping network shifts, dry bulk market dynamics, tanker trade flows, and investment strategies under increasingly stringent compliance requirements. Participants also actively shared their experience and professional insights on market volatility, energy transition solutions, and emerging technologies shaping the future of shipping.

The Regional Head (Singapore) of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR), Mr. Norman Ni, was invited to attend the forum and delivered a presentation titled “Navigating Uncertainty with a Quality Flag”, introducing the latest development of the HKSR. He noted that in today’s uncertain and increasingly fragmented global shipping environment, a quality flag is no longer merely a compliance tool, but a strategic commercial choice for shipowners to enhance competitiveness. Hong Kong’s strengths lie not only in its high regulatory standards and professional services, but also in its distinct position connecting the Chinese Mainland, international markets and global regulatory frameworks. In addition, Hong Kong actively supports shipowners in balancing sustainability and commercial efficiency through initiatives such as the Green Incentive Schemes and fee concessions.

The forum helped strengthen connections between the Marine Department and the international shipping community, while further enhancing the recognition and influence of the HKSR in the global maritime landscape.



The Regional Head (Singapore) of the HKSR, Mr. Norman Ni, delivered a presentation at the Xinde Marine Forum Singapore 2026.



► The Philippines Marine and Offshore Expo 2026

The Philippines Marine and Offshore Expo (PhilMarine) 2026 was held in Manila, the Philippines from 17 to 19 June. As one of the Philippines' premier maritime exhibitions, the event brought together shipping companies, shipbuilders, equipment manufacturers, service providers and other maritime stakeholders from around the world.

Under the theme "Navigating the Future: Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience in Maritime and Offshore Industries", the event featured diverse exhibitions showcasing the latest maritime technologies, products and solutions from leading global industry players. It also offered a series of keynote sessions, technical workshops and panel discussions, during which participants actively exchanged insights on innovation, safety, sustainability and emerging industry trends.

The Regional Head (Singapore) of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR), Mr. Norman Ni, delivered a speech at the accompanying conference supported by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines. He introduced Hong Kong's maritime cluster and the quality services offered by the HKSR to industry stakeholders. He also highlighted Hong Kong's aspiration to develop into a leading international green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre, while elaborating on the relevant policies introduced. In addition, he participated in panel discussions and exchange sessions, sharing views with industry representatives on key developments in the maritime sector, including digitalisation, decarbonisation, maritime safety and regulatory developments.

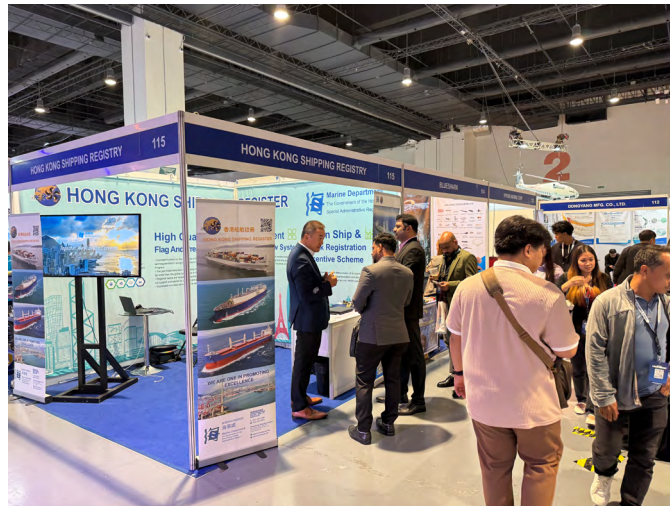


The Regional Head (Singapore) of the HKSR, Mr. Norman Ni, delivered a speech at an accompanying conference.



To further enhance the HKSR's exposure in the industry, an exhibition booth was set up at the venue to provide information and facilitate interaction with participants.

The Marine Department will continue to actively engage in international events to stay abreast of the latest industry developments and consolidate the position of the HKSR as a quality flag of choice.



The HKSR set up an exhibition booth to provide information and facilitate interaction with participants.



► London ETO and MD Host Reception at IMO

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London (London ETO), with the support of the Marine Department (MD), hosted a reception at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London on 14 May. The event attracted over 300 guests from the global maritime community, including the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, delegates from IMO member states, senior representatives of international maritime organisations, and prominent shipowner representatives based in London.

In her welcome remarks, the Director-General of London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, highlighted Hong Kong's pivotal role as a maritime "super connector" bridging East and West. She also outlined the Government's initiatives to promote smart port development and green shipping, including the advancement of the Port Community System and efforts to facilitate green fuel bunkering. She noted that Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre is underpinned by a comprehensive and robust maritime services cluster, offering a wide range of professional services such as legal and arbitration services, shipbroking, marine insurance and ship finance.

The reception not only provided valuable networking opportunities for the industry and deepened the guests' understanding of the development of Hong Kong's maritime industry, but also effectively promoted Hong Kong's standing as an international maritime centre.



The Marine Adviser, Permanent Representative to the IMO and Regional Head (London) of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, Mr. Ben Lau (left); the Director-General of London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (centre); and the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez (right) were pictured together at the reception.

The London ETO and MD hosted a reception at the IMO headquarters in London, attracting over 300 guests from the global maritime community.





► Hong Kong Shipping Registry Participates in Seminar on Judicial Sale of Ships

On 22 May, the Asian Academy of International Law hosted a seminar on the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships at the Former French Mission Building in Central. The seminar brought together representatives from the fields of international law, maritime legal practice, ship finance and Hong Kong maritime administration to share insights from legal, financial, governmental and industry perspectives. The Marine Department's General Manager/Ship Registration and Quality, Mr. Eric Lee, delivered a presentation at the event, outlining the practices of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) in handling judicial sales of vessels, comparing commercial sales with judicial sales, and analysing the potential impact of the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships on handling judicial sale procedures from the perspective of a shipping registry.

A judicial sale is a court-ordered sale of a vessel, typically to recover debts owed by the shipowner. For example, if a shipowner fails to pay for fuel, repairs or crew wages, creditors may apply to the court to seize and sell the vessel, with the sale proceeds used to repay the outstanding debts. The purchaser at a judicial sale acquires "clean title", meaning the vessel is transferred free from any previous mortgages, liens or other claims.

The HKSR is responsible for maintaining the official records of ship ownership. When a vessel is sold by judicial sale pursuant to a court order, the Registry would update its records at the purchaser's request. At present, such cases are extremely rare, with only about one occurring each year. As court documents vary across different jurisdictions, documents from foreign courts must be notarised and authenticated before submission for registration. Moreover, the original shipowner is unlikely to show up again after the judicial sale, making the de-registration procedures difficult to complete. These uncertainties render the entire process slow and costly. As a responsible flag administration, the Marine Department adopts a cautious approach to such cases, and seeks the advice of the Department of Justice before accepting a judicial sale of a vessel.



The Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships sets out clear provisions regarding the actions to be taken by the shipping registry for a judicial sale under the Convention. The Convention stipulates that, upon receipt of a certificate of judicial sale submitted by the purchaser, the registry must cancel any existing mortgages, remove the former owner's name from the register, and register the vessel in the purchaser's name. Should the Convention be extended to apply to Hong Kong, the relevant procedures would be greatly simplified.

For purchasers, this would reduce the obstacles they face in transactions and mitigate legal risks. In turn, judicial sale prices would become more reasonable and normalised, ultimately benefiting debtors.



The Marine Department's General Manager/Ship Registration and Quality, Mr. Eric Lee, gave a presentation at the seminar hosted by the Asian Academy of International Law.



► Lloyd's List Presents 2025 Top 10 Global Flags Award to Hong Kong Shipping Registry

Lloyd's List, the internationally renowned maritime media, recently announced the 2025 ranking of the world's top 10 flags. With its exceptional fleet standards and outstanding international reputation, the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) secured fifth place globally.

On 14 May, representatives from Lloyd's List Intelligence, including the Head of APAC, Mr. Sidney Leung; the Head of Sales, Greater China, Mr. Carter Yang; and the Manager for Hong Kong and Taiwan, Ms. Gwyneth Tse, visited the Marine Department to present the award to the Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat, in recognition of the HKSR's exceptional contributions to the global maritime industry.



The Head of APAC, Lloyd's List Intelligence, Mr. Sidney Leung (right), presented the 2025 Top 10 Flag States award to the Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat (left).

Mr. Wong remarked that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region would continue its dedicated efforts to develop the Hong Kong ship registration into a premium international shipping brand. He added that the Transport and Logistics Bureau would introduce legislative amendments to revamp the existing ship registration arrangements, including the registration switching mechanism. This aims to cater for the diverse operating models of local and international maritime enterprises, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's leading position in ship registration.

The delegation also seized the opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with Mr. Wong and the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang. They shared the latest developments in maritime intelligence technology and explored how such technologies could assist the shipping industry in navigating risks and challenges amid an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment. Both sides expressed their commitment to maintaining close communication and jointly promoting the steady development of the maritime industry in the face of global changes.



As of end-December 2025, the total gross tonnage of Hong Kong-registered ships reached about 112 million tonnes. In terms of Port State Control performance, the detention rate of Hong Kong-registered ships remained far below the global average. Hong Kong ranked 11th in the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) “White List” in 2025, and second in the Tokyo MOU “White List”, demonstrating the international recognition of Hong Kong-flagged ships.



The Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat (second left), and the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang (first left), were pictured with the Head of APAC, Mr. Sidney Leung (centre); the Head of Sales, Greater China, Mr. Carter Yang (first right); and the Manager for Hong Kong and Taiwan, Ms. Gwyneth Tse (second right) of Lloyd's List Intelligence.



► 2026 Port State Control Officer Exchange Programme

The 2026 Port State Control (PSC) Officer Exchange Programme was successfully concluded in the second quarter of this year. The Programme not only deepened collaboration between the Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) and the Marine and Water Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region (DSAMA), but also facilitated more comprehensive and in-depth knowledge sharing and technical exchange in aspects such as ship safety inspection standards, operational experience and training for PSC officers.

From 28 to 30 April and 27 to 29 May, MD received two groups comprising a total of four PSC officers from DSAMA. During the exchange, the PSC Section of MD arranged visits to MD's Headquarters and provided a detailed introduction to the department's work in PSC. Both parties also engaged in candid discussions and shared professional insights, with the aim of fostering greater alignment and standardisation of PSC procedures within the Tokyo MOU region.

In addition, PSC officers from MD accompanied the DSAMA delegation to the Kwai Chung Container Terminals, where they jointly conducted a PSC inspection on a foreign-flagged ocean-going vessel powered by liquefied natural gas calling at Hong Kong. Following the inspection, both parties held extensive experience-sharing sessions and professional discussions, which not only strengthened mutual learning in the field of green vessels but also accumulated valuable collaborative experience for future endeavours.

Over the years, MD and DSAMA have been committed to enhancing maritime safety in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and have established a solid foundation of cooperation in the field of PSC. MD will continue to maintain close liaison with maritime administrations in the GBA, with a view to actively promoting regional knowledge sharing and technical cooperation, and working collectively towards the enhancement of maritime safety and sustainable development.



PSC officers from MD and the DSAMA delegation were pictured together during a PSC inspection.



► Safety Management System Audit Exchange Programme

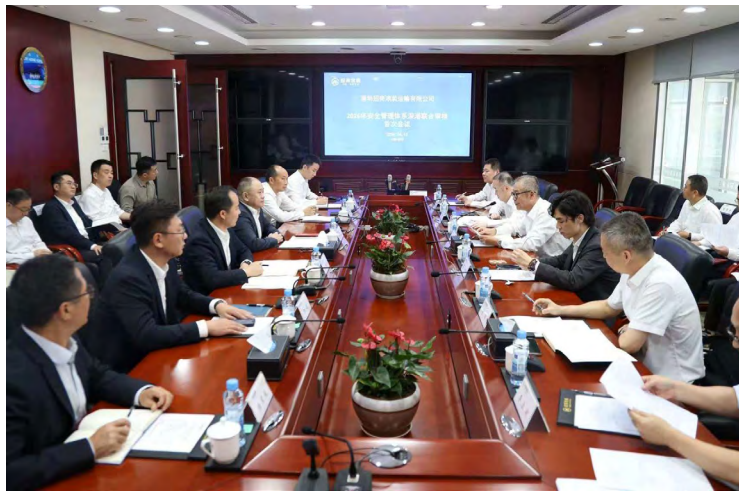
The Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) and the Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration (SZMSA) have long maintained close cooperation in the field of safety management system (SMS) audits under the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code). To deepen practical understanding, MD sent delegates to Shenzhen under the SMS Audit Exchange Programme in April this year to conduct professional exchange on the application of the ISM Code.

From 15 to 17 April, the Surveyor of Ships from the Cargo Ships Safety Section of MD, Mr. Allen Yung, participated in an on-site SMS audit for the China Merchants Shenzhen RoRo Shipping Company Limited (the Company) conducted by SZMSA, while a recognised organisation authorised by MD audited the Company's SMS simultaneously. One of the key focuses of this joint audit was the safety management and operation status of the Company's Hong Kong-registered vessels, i.e. "CM HONG KONG" and "CM SHEN ZHEN". As the world's first two large green-energy car carriers equipped with methanol dual-fuel power systems, they mark a significant milestone in the Hong Kong shipping industry's transition towards low-carbon development, while also presenting new challenges to the Company's SMS.

During the audit, both teams conducted in-depth reviews on the vessels' safety management operations, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and coordination regarding the regulatory framework, methodology and procedures for SMS audits. In addition, they engaged in discussions on key topics such as safety supervision, training and quality improvement of green vessels. Following the audit, both parties provided the Company with clear and concise SMS audit results, helping the Company fully understand the SMS regulatory requirements of both Hong Kong and Shenzhen, thereby refining the Company's workflow, strengthening its safety culture, and ensuring that its green vessels comply with the relevant standards of both jurisdictions.



The ISM Code is an international standard established by the International Maritime Organization to ensure safety of life at sea, prevent environmental pollution and avoid property damage. Through this joint audit, MD and SZMSA not only reinforced their collaborative synergy in SMS audits, but also accumulated valuable practical experience in the safety management of green fuel-powered vessels. Both parties will continue to deepen cooperation and jointly enhance the effectiveness of coordinated safety supervision for green vessels.



MD and SZMSA conducted a safety management system audit for the China Merchants Shenzhen RoRo Shipping Company Limited.



► Director of Marine's Commendation for Bravery at Sea Presentation Ceremony

The Marine Department (MD) held the Director of Marine's Commendation for Bravery at Sea Presentation Ceremony at the Hong Kong City Hall on 5 May to recognise individuals who demonstrated exceptional courage and selflessness in saving lives in Hong Kong waters. A total of 40 awardees were commended for 2025, including MD officers, police officers, staff members of the Hong Kong Salvage & Towage Services Limited, as well as members of the public who acted with notable bravery.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat, praised the awardees for their immense courage in saving lives under severe weather and rough seas, especially those who stepped forward fearlessly during a typhoon, an act that was truly worthy of admiration. He emphasised that these heroic deeds not only saved the lives of those in distress but also safeguarded their families, fully embodying the core value of "putting human safety first". He also expressed gratitude for the awardees' decisiveness and professionalism, which highlighted the spirit of mutual support at sea.

Mr. Wong then presented certificates and commemorative shields to the awardees attending the ceremony, conveying his heartfelt appreciation and respect. One of the commended cases occurred during Typhoon Ragasa last year. On that day, Mr. Leung Pak-hei and his son, Mr. Leung Ho-yin, were working at the Chai Wan Typhoon Shelter when they suddenly heard calls for help from the shore. They immediately steered their workboat to the shore and successfully rescued a family of three who had fallen into the sea.

The heroic actions of all awardees set an exemplary model for society, showcasing the spirit of mutual assistance and professionalism within Hong Kong's maritime safety culture.



The Director of Marine, Mr. Wong Sai-fat (back row, centre), was pictured with all awardees of the Commendation for Bravery at Sea.



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (back row, centre), together with the directorates, were pictured with MD officers, staff members of the Hong Kong Salvage & Towage Services Limited, and members of the public who received the Commendation for Bravery at Sea.



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (back row, centre), together with the directorates of MD and Police, were pictured with police officers and members of the public who received the Commendation for Bravery at Sea.



Mr. Wong Sai-fat (left), presented a certificate and a commemorative shield to Mr. Leung Ho-yin (right).



► MD Hosts Seminar to Promote Water Sports Safety

The Marine Department (MD), the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) co-organised the 2026 Safety Afloat Educational Seminar at the Hong Kong Science Museum on 6 May. Speakers from MD, HKPF, HKO, the Hong Kong, China Waterski Association, and the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society shared knowledge on water sports safety with the participants.

Delivering the opening speech, the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang, noted that many members of the public would go out to sea for leisure during summer. He reminded all coxswains and vessel operators to make adequate preparations before setting sail, paying attention to weather conditions, sea states and the surrounding environment to ensure it is suitable for water sports activities, thereby safeguarding the safety of passengers and crew on board. He also reminded coxswains and vessel operators to inspect vessel structures and safety equipment before departure, and to familiarise themselves with onboard safety and emergency procedures. In addition, they should ensure that a sufficient number of qualified crew members are deployed on board to guide passengers in following safety guidelines during water sports activities.



The Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Shi Qiang, delivered a speech at the 2026 Safety Afloat Educational Seminar.

When operating pleasure vessels in shallow waters, speed-restricted zones, or waters where water sports activities are taking place, coxswains should exercise extra caution, maintain vigilant lookouts and take corresponding safety measures to avoid accidents.

For members of the public renting pleasure vessels, MD reminded them to verify whether the pleasure vessels are endorsed to be let for hire or reward, and check the permitted passenger capacity of those vessels, by scanning the QR codes on MD posters and banners displayed at popular marine tourist locations. Swimmers are advised to swim at beaches where lifeguards are on duty, and avoid swimming away from the bathing beach areas. They should know their limits and refrain from swimming immediately after eating, drinking or taking medication. Swimmers should also look out for one another with their companions and take care of accompanying children.



Mr. Shi pointed out that MD would continue to safeguard public safety during water sports activities through a two-pronged approach. On publicity and education, MD has produced posters and leaflets and uploaded them to MD's website. Promotional videos and audio announcements are also broadcast on various media to raise public awareness of safety. With regard to enforcement actions, MD and the Marine Police will step up patrols in speed-restricted zones, waters in the vicinity of popular beaches and water sports sites, while taking action against illegal or reckless boating activities. Lifeguards from LCSD will also monitor boating activities at various beaches and adjacent waters, and notify MD and the Marine Police when necessary.

With the typhoon season approaching, Mr. Shi strongly urged owners, coxswains and persons-in-charge of local vessels to take appropriate precautionary measures before the onset of a typhoon to ensure safety.

The Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance has been in effect for over a year. He reminded participants once again that it is an offence to operate vessels or perform specified duties on vessels underway while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Ordinance applies to all vessels navigating in Hong Kong waters, including non-mechanised vessels such as canoes. MD will continue to work with the Marine Police to combat drink and drug boating.

MD hopes that the industry and the public will work together to promote water sports safety so that everyone can enjoy leisure water sports activities.



A number of representatives from the shipping and water sports sectors as well as coxswains and vessel operators attended the seminar.



► Local Safety Management Seminar 2026

The Marine Department (MD) held the “Local Safety Management (LSM) Seminar 2026” on 26 June, aiming to enhance understanding of the LSM system and promote safety culture among local vessel operators.

The seminar was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, with a total attendance of 45 industry representatives. The morning session was catered for Class I vessel operators, while the afternoon session was for Class II vessel operators. Featuring Mr. Chan Kam-chau of the Registro Italiano Navale (RINA) Services S.p.A. as the keynote speaker, the seminar introduced attendees to risk assessment methodologies under the LSM system, as well as practical tools for analysing the root causes of accidents and hazards.

Featuring a workshop session for the first time, the seminar enhanced learning effectiveness by driving interaction through group discussions and experience sharing. Through case studies on local vessel operations, participants applied risk matrices to assess potential risks, thereby formulating appropriate preventive measures to manage risks to an acceptable level. They also utilised the “Five Whys” technique to systematically trace the root causes of incidents.

During the seminar, the General Manager of the Local Vessels Branch of MD, Mr. Matthew Shu, emphasised that safety awareness should be deeply ingrained in company management and crew team. He urged the integration of risk management into daily operations to ensure safe operation.

Since its launch in 2024, the LSM system has attracted over 40 ferry operators and oil bunkering companies, covering more than 80% of local passenger vessels with carrying capacity exceeding 100 passengers. MD will continue to organise seminars and disseminate relevant information to support local vessel operators in continuously improving their safety management systems.



The representative of RINA Services S.p.A., Mr. Chan Kam-chau, delivered a presentation on risk management at the “Local Safety Management Seminar 2026”.



► 2026 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise

The 2026 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint maritime search and rescue exercise was successfully held in Macao on 23 June. By simulating a marine incident, the exercise mobilised search and rescue units from the three jurisdictions to conduct a joint rescue operation, aiming to enhance the emergency coordination capabilities of the three places in response to marine incidents, and to strengthen cross-regional exchange and cooperation.



During the 2026 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint maritime search and rescue exercise, a variety of vessels were deployed to respond to the simulated marine incident.

The Senior Marine Officer of the Search and Rescue Section of the Hong Kong Marine Department, Mr. Neo Wong (first left), together with representatives from various search and rescue units, received a briefing from an officer of the Macao Marine and Water Bureau.



The exercise simulated a collision between a high-speed passenger ferry and an engineering vessel in the waters north of the entrance to the Outer Harbour Channel in Macao. The engine room of the passenger ferry was damaged with water ingress, posing a risk of sinking, while the engineering vessel sustained hull damage, lost power and caught fire at its bow. One person from each vessel fell overboard. Upon receiving the report, the Macao Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) immediately activated the Macao Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Centre in accordance with the emergency response mechanism, notified relevant maritime emergency units and contacted the maritime search and rescue units from Guangdong and Hong Kong to participate in the rescue operation.

Organised by the DSAMA, the exercise involved 18 participating units, including the Unitary Police Service of Macao, Macao Customs, Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration, Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration, Zhuhai Maritime Safety Administration, Emergency Management Bureau of Zhuhai Municipality, Hong Kong Marine Department (MD), Hong Kong Government Flying Service, as well as several passenger ferry companies. A total of over 260 personnel were mobilised, with the deployment of 20 vessels, one helicopter and four vehicles.

The exercise not only provided practical training for search and rescue units across the three places, but also helped deepen their coordination and enhance response capabilities, laying a more solid foundation for future cooperation in the event of marine incidents. MD will continue to maintain close liaison with relevant authorities in Guangdong and Macao to jointly safeguard navigational safety in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Pearl River Estuary.



Vessels from search and rescue units used water cannons to extinguish the fire on board the engineering vessel.



Passengers and crew members of the high-speed passenger ferry evacuated using a life raft during the exercise.



A vessel from Macao Customs conducted an emergency tow for the life raft.



A Hong Kong Government Flying Service helicopter safely airlifted the injured persons from the rescue vessel.



► Sea Safety Seminar cum No Drugs Charter Signing Ceremony 2026

The Marine Department (MD) was invited to attend the “Sea Safety Seminar cum No Drugs Charter Signing Ceremony 2026” held at the Marine Outer Waters District Operational Base in Ma Liu Shui on 24 June. Organised by the Marine Outer Waters District, the event brought together over 100 representatives from MD, the Immigration Department, marine activity groups and the industry to jointly promote marine safety awareness and disseminate anti-drug messages.

At the seminar, the Acting Marine Officer of the Harbour Patrol Section of MD, Mr. Tang Ka-wing, briefed industry stakeholders on the Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance. He reminded all persons involved in operating a vessel or performing designated duties on board a vessel underway not to operate any vessel (including non-mechanised vessels such as dragon boats, kayaks, stand up paddles and sailing dinghies) while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This aims to prevent accidents caused by impaired judgement and alertness, which could endanger their own safety and that of others at sea.



The Acting Marine Officer of the Harbour Patrol Section of MD, Mr. Tang Ka-wing, briefed industry stakeholders on the Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance.



In addition, the Marine Officer of the Licensing and Port Formalities Section of MD, Mr. Mark Lau, took the opportunity to introduce the cross-boundary facilitation measures for yachts implemented by MD. He stated that MD offers convenience to visiting yachts by upgrading its Electronic Business System, relaxing berthing requirements for visiting yachts, and facilitating masters of visiting yachts from the Chinese Mainland to obtain required qualifications, thereby attracting more yachts from the Greater Bay Area and around the world to choose Hong Kong as their destination. He emphasised that MD would closely monitor the implementation of these facilitation measures and step up publicity and education to ensure safe and orderly navigation and anchoring within Hong Kong waters.

The Marine Officer of the Licensing and Port Formalities Section of MD, Mr. Mark Lau, introduced the cross-boundary facilitation measures for yachts implemented by MD.



During the event, apart from presentations on various topics by participating organisations, the organiser also conducted an inter-departmental joint exercise. This effectively enhanced information exchange and communication between government departments and the industry, further consolidating the foundation for cooperation among all parties in maritime safety and anti-drug initiatives.



The Sea Safety Seminar cum No Drugs Charter Signing Ceremony 2026 drew over 100 representatives from government departments, marine activity groups and the industry.



► Inter-departmental Marine Firefighting Exercises during Fishing Moratorium 2026

To enhance maritime fire safety response capabilities during the fishing moratorium, the Marine Department (MD), together with other government departments, conducted inter-departmental marine firefighting exercises at various typhoon shelters in May. Coordinated by the Fire Services Department (FSD), the joint exercises simulated different fire scenarios for participating departments and units to conduct on-site drills, thereby improving emergency response capabilities and further strengthening inter-departmental cooperation and communication.

On 14, 19, 21 and 28 May, MD, together with FSD and the Hong Kong Police Force, conducted inter-departmental marine firefighting exercises at the Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter, Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter, Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter and Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter respectively. During the exercises, MD's patrol launches closely monitored marine traffic on site and directed vessels in and out of the typhoon shelters in an orderly manner, thereby ensuring unobstructed access for rescue operations while safeguarding the navigational safety of surrounding vessels. After the exercises, MD officers distributed publicity leaflets to shipowners and shipyard operators at the typhoon shelters, reminding them to remain vigilant about daily fire safety.



Inter-departmental marine firefighting exercise held at the Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter on 19 May.



On 29 May, MD, in collaboration with FSD and the Marine Police West Division, held an inter-departmental marine firefighting exercise at the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter, which incorporated a rescue operation drill. The exercise simulated a fire on a fishing vessel moored inside the typhoon shelter, during which a crew member lost consciousness and fell overboard after inhaling dense smoke while attempting to extinguish the fire. FSD and the Marine Police promptly deployed multiple launches to conduct firefighting, search and rescue operations simultaneously. MD also deployed several patrol launches to cordon off the affected waters and regulate marine traffic within the typhoon shelter, ensuring the smooth conduct of the rescue operation.

MD attaches great importance to the safety of typhoon shelters and will continue to enhance its emergency response and coordination capabilities through regular inter-departmental exercises. The department will also adopt a dual approach of enforcement and publicity to ensure the safety of vessels and personnel within typhoon shelters.



Inter-departmental marine firefighting and rescue exercise held at the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter on 29 May.



► Marine Department Youth Group Activities

From March to July, the Marine Department (MD) Youth Group organised a series of engaging activities, enabling university and secondary students and members of the Youth Group to visit MD's facilities and participate in maritime-related activities, thereby deepening their understanding of the maritime industry and the actual operations and functions of MD.

On 23 March, the MD Youth Group organised a visit for students from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Youth Group members to the Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal, the Vessel Traffic Centre and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. MD officers briefed the young visitors on the functions and services of the facilities, as well as their daily work. An interactive game session was also specially arranged to make the learning experience more enjoyable and enhance the participants' understanding of maritime operations.



Students from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Youth Group members were briefed by MD officers on the functions of the Vessel Traffic Centre and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

On 23 April, students from Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School and Youth Group members visited the Government Dockyard and the MD Training Centre. MD officers introduced the daily operations of the Government Dockyard and explained the grade structure and promotion ladder of the department. Students also had the opportunity to operate a full-function ship simulator, experiencing the fun and challenges of steering a vessel. They also visited the dockyard workshop for an up-close observation of the government vessels and large-scale lifting equipment, followed by a tour to the inflatable craft repair workshop. Through the professional explanations provided by MD officers, participants gained a more comprehensive understanding of the repair and maintenance work of the government fleet.

Students from Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School and Youth Group members visited the Government Dockyard facilities.





On 4 July, the MD Youth Group took members to attend a talk titled “Women’s Professionalism and Strength in the Maritime Industry: From Port Management to Future Horizons”, organised by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. The Assistant Director/Port Control of MD, Ms. Carmen Chan, served as the guest speaker, sharing her personal experience as Hong Kong’s first female ship master. She noted that seafaring is by no means an easy job, requiring not only daily ship operations and maintenance, but also proficiency in emergency skills such as firefighting and first aid. Nevertheless, her years of seafaring journeys have brought her invaluable rewards that are incomparable to land-based work. After the talk, the museum arranged a professional guided tour for Youth Group members, allowing them to learn about the evolution of ships and the historical role of Hong Kong as an international trading hub.



The Assistant Director/Port Control of MD, Ms. Carmen Chan (front row, fourth left), was pictured with MD Youth Group members.

On 16 July, the MD Youth Group, in collaboration with the Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association Hong Kong (WISTA HK), organised a visit to the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (KTCT). Staff of the KTCT took Youth Group members to a tour of the terminal building, highlighting its green and environmentally friendly measures to help them understand the eco-friendly design of modern maritime architecture. Members also visited the rooftop park of KTCT to overlook the Victoria Harbour and the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter.

MD Youth Group members took a group photo with members of the WISTA HK.





Established in 2023, the MD Youth Group aims to serve as a bridge between young people and the maritime industry. Through organising diverse activities and career talks, the Youth Group hopes to introduce various aspects of the maritime industry to young people in an engaging way, encouraging them to explore their own maritime journeys.

We welcome all persons from the maritime sector to recommend young people to join the MD Youth Group. Registration can be completed via this link (<https://mdyouthgroup.mardep.gov.hk/en/join-us/index.html>) or by scanning the QR code below.





► Marine Department Volunteer Team

The Marine Department (MD) Volunteer Team has always been dedicated to the joy of helping others. Making good use of their spare time, members actively participate in community service and respond enthusiastically to volunteer activities organised by charitable organisations. Through concrete actions, they extend care to the needy, demonstrate the civic virtues of mutual support and compassion, and help foster an inclusive and harmonious community.

On 18 April, MD colleagues took part in the “I Can Teach (ICT) 2.0 – E-learning Buddy” mobile outreach service station volunteer activity organised by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. The activity aimed to encourage senior citizens to learn about and adopt digital technology, helping them integrate into today’s digital society. The volunteers arrived at the mobile service station in Diamond Hill, patiently guiding elderly people in using smartphones and assisting them in downloading government mobile applications.



On 9 May, MD colleagues joined the “Graceful Meal” soft meal packing volunteer activity organised by St. James’ Settlement. On that day, the volunteers carefully packed soft meal products, enabling individuals with chewing or swallowing difficulties to enjoy their meals with ease.

On 25 July, MD colleagues participated in a meal distribution volunteer activity organised by Ginkgo House. The volunteers worked together to serve rice and soup, package meals, register beneficiaries and distribute meal boxes, delivering care and warmth to those in need.



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