

**Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee**  
**Streamlining Ship Registration Procedures of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR); the Review of Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance, Cap. 415; and the Formulation of Incentive Measures**

**Purpose**

As agreed in the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee (HKFOAC) held on 19 September 2023, a Working Group (WG) was set up to address issues in the areas of: (a) streamlining HKSR's ship registration procedures; (b) the review of Cap. 415; and (c) the formulation of incentive measures for Hong Kong registered ships.

2. The purpose of the paper is to present the findings of the WG as detailed in the pursuing paragraphs for HKFOAC's members' endorsement.

**(a) Streamlining HKSR's Ship Registration Procedures without Legislative Amendment**

3. WG members agreed with the proposal to streamlining those HKSR procedures that do not require legislative amendment as shown in **Annex 1**.

**(b) Review of Cap. 415**

4. In response to the shipping market nowadays that dual registry (demise charter in/ out) and sub-demise charter activities are very popular, WG members agreed that Cap. 415 should be amended to facilitate the aforementioned activities in ship registration.

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5. WG members agreed also that existing provisional registration under Cap. 415 should be amended by making reference to other major ship registries in view of the fact that there is an industry's need of a "ship registration certificate" the earliest possible for navigational purpose. Apart from the above two core issues, WG members discussed also other matters that should be considered when reviewing Cap. 415. The list below provides a summary of the discussion:

- i) dual registration;
- ii) sub-demise charter registration;
- iii) provisional registration;
- iv) authorized mechanism for pre-clearance of ship registration applications and supporting documents;
- v) duties of Representative Person; and
- vi) deleting those antiquated legislation such as:
  - possessing a common seal by a body corporate;
  - DM to serve 90 days notice for the intention to close a ship's registration;
  - DM to direct the Registrar not to register that ship or ships of that class or type;
  - Registrar to endorse on the mortgage instrument the date and time of registration; and
  - "office hours" including Sat 9:00 a.m. to noon.

## **(c) Financial Incentives Measures**

6. WG members discussed and outlined the suggested criteria of a financial incentive proposal which covered block registration and green incentive (**Annex 2**).

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## **Advice Sought**

7. Members are invited to comment and endorse this paper.

**December 2023**

**Shipping Division**

**Marine Department**

Encls.

**Annex 1** - Review Summary of Streamlining Ship Registration Procedures  
without Legislative Amendment

**Annex 2** - Financial Incentive Proposal.