

# LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Date : 6 January 2009 (Tuesday)  
Time : 10:30 a.m.  
Place : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building

### Present

Chairman: Mr. H P LIU Deputy Director, Marine Department (MD)

Member: Mr. LO Ngok-yang, Ken Representing Ship Building and Repairing Industry  
Mr. TAM Mo-pun Representing Naval Architects  
Mr. ZHU Qi Representing Ship Survey Work  
Miss HO Pui-ling, Vivian Representing Marine Insurance Industry  
Mr. LUK Pak-hung Representing Seafarers' Training  
Mr. LAI Hoi-ping Representing Seafarers' Associations  
Mr. WONG Miu-sang Representing Cargo Vessels' Operations  
Mr. KWOK Tak-kee Representing Launch & Excursion Vessels' Operations  
Mr. CHAK Kwok-leung Representing Ferry Vessels' Operations  
Mr. Danny WU Representing River Trade Cargo Operations  
Mr. LO Hoi-yin, Ambrose Representing Pleasure Boating Operations  
Mr. YUEN Chung-biu Hong Kong Police Force  
Mr. SO Ping-chi GM/LVS, MD  
Mr. CHAN Hon-bun GM/Ops(Ag.), MD  
*(on behalf of Mr. BUTT Lee-yuen)*

Secretary: Mr. John LEUNG ADS/C&G, MD

### In Attendance

Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai Hong Kong & Kowloon Floating Fisherman Welfare Promotion Association  
Mr. LAU Ming-shun Hong Kong Cargo Vessel Traders' Association  
Mr. Bosco CHAU Hongkong & Yaumati Ferry Co. Ltd.  
Mr. PANG Wah-kan Hong Kong Fishermen's Association  
Mr. WU Ka-shun Hong Kong Shipping Staff Association  
Mr. CHEUNG Yau-kwong Marine Excursion Association  
Ms. CHING Ngon-lai Small Craft Workers Union  
Dr. LAU Kwok-lam, Alan

## **Absent with apologies**

Hon. WONG Yung-kan, JP      Representing Fishing Industry

## **Presentation of Papers**

Paper No. 1/2009	Mr. LI Yiu-kwong, Stephen	SS/TP1, MD
Paper No. 2/2009	Mr. LAI Yu-wah, Adam	GM/PD&PS, MD
Paper No. 3/2009	Mr. CHENG Lung-tak, Tom	SMO/PL(Ag.), MD
Paper No. 4/2009	Mr. Simon NG	Visiting Scholar, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
	Mr. Ben LIN	Research Assistant, HKUST
	Mr. Brian LAU	Senior Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
	Mr. Billy CHEUNG	Environmental Protection Officer, EPD

## **I. Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He extended, in particular, welcome to the following members who were attending the LVAC meeting for the first time: -

Mr. ZHU Qi  
Mr. LUK Pak-hung  
Mr. CHAK Kwok-leung  
Mr. LO Hoi-yin, Ambrose

2. He also welcomed the following guests from MD, HKUST and EPD who would present the LVAC Papers at the meeting: -

Mr. LI Yiu-kwong Stephen  
Mr. LAI Yu-wah, Adam  
Mr. CHENG Lung-tak, Tom  
Mr. Simon NG  
Mr. Ben LIN  
Mr. Brian LAU  
Mr. Billy CHEUNG

## **II. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

3. The minutes of last meeting held on 14 October 2008, which had been revised as per the amendments proposed by members, had been re-circulated to members for endorsement. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without further amendment.

## **III. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

### *LVAC Paper No. 8/2008 – “Amendments to Rules Associated with Local Certificate of Competency”*

4. The Chairman informed members that MD was consulting the fishing industry, and updates would be reported to members when available.

### *Re-validation of Crew Certificate*

5. The Chairman said that the issue had been resolved satisfactorily with all the parties concerned, and the crew certificates were being re-validated. Mr. LUK Pak-hung confirmed that the Maritime Services Training Institute was assisting in the process of re-validating the certificates.

## **IV. Presentation of Papers**

### *LVAC Paper No. 1/2009 – “Consultation Paper on Implementation of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 in the HKSAR”*

6. Mr. Stephen LI briefed members on the details of the proposed implementation of the Bunker Convention in the HKSAR. Members were invited to give their views and comments on the proposal.
7. Mr. LAU Ming-shun asked if the proposed exemption of compulsory insurance would cover local vessels which were not self-propelled, and if the Bunkers Convention would cover cargo vessels in Mainland China. Mr. LI replied that the proposed exemption for compulsory insurance would apply to local vessels of gross tonnage greater than 1,000 regardless of whether they were self-powered or not, and that vessels from Mainland China were also covered as the Chinese Government had also joined the Bunkers Convention.

Furthermore local vessels trading within River Trade Limit and Mainland River Trade vessels of over 1000 gross tonnage would also be exempted from the compulsory insurance requirement. Members had no further comments on the proposal.

***LVAC Paper No. 2/2009 – “Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Port Services Network”***

8. Mr. Adam LAI presented to members the information on the establishment of the APEC Port Services Network (APSN) in detail. He requested Members to assist in publicizing the APSN with a view to attract broader participation from the private sector and the industries.
9. Mr. Ambrose LO asked if there would be copyright to protect any products or services created under APSN. Mr. LAI replied that APSN provided a platform for exchanging views and information, and promoting cooperation. The issue on copyright of its derivatives would be discussed when necessary. Mr. LAI also said that an APSN office had been set up in Beijing, and members were welcome to visit the APSN official website for more information. He further pointed out that for the initial two years, Regular Members would not have to pay any membership fee, and that application for membership could be made by sending the completed application form to the APSN Office.

***LVAC Paper No. 3/2009 – “The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Recommendation O-133 on Emergency Wreck Marking Buoy”***

10. Mr. Tom CHENG briefed members on the proposal of adopting the IALA’s recommendation on emergency wreck marking buoy. In reply to Mr. CHAK Kwok-leung, Mr. CHENG said that the proposed wreck marking buoy had been used by the Mainland Authority in the Pearl River Estuary.
11. The Chairman asked and Mr. CHENG replied that the proposed wreck marking buoy would be provided at a wreck location until the dangerous wreck had been cleared or marked on the charts.
12. In reply to Mr. WONG Miu-sang, Mr. CHENG said that it was in the process of consultation at the moment. After endorsement, the proposal was expected to be ready for implementation by the end of 2009. Mr. CHENG reminded

members that the marking buoy would only be used in case where there was a new wreck, and that MD would issue a Marine Department Notice to inform mariners of such a wreck. Mr. WONG requested that MD should promote the new buoy widely before implementation so that users would become familiar with the characteristics of the buoy. Mr. CHENG replied that printing and distribution of promotional materials to mariners and relevant associations and organisations would be considered. Members had no further comments. The Chairman concluded that the paper was endorsed unanimously.

***LVAC Paper No. 4/2009 – “Study on Marine Vessels Emission Inventory”***

13. Mr. Brian LAU informed members that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had commissioned the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to conduct a study on marine vessels emission inventory in the HKSAR. Mr. Simon NG briefed members on the study in detail. Mr. NG said that MD had already provided some data for the study. However, MD did not have all the data that the study required, and HKUST would conduct surveys for ocean-going, river and local vessels to collect relevant data from ship owners, shipping agents and operators. Mr. NG appealed for members’ assistance in providing the required data for the study, and assured members that HKUST would maintain the confidentiality of the data collected. Members had no further questions or comments on the study.

**V. Any Other Business**

***Membership of LVAC***

14. The Secretary reported that the Chairman of the Hong Kong Joint Branch of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) had written to MD to express their interest in having a representative in LVAC. The Secretary explained to members that LVAC was a statutory body set up under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), and the composition of its membership was set out in Section 4 of this ordinance. Any changes to the composition of the membership would therefore require a change to the legislation.
15. The Chairman thanked IMarEST for their interest in LVAC, and said that for different issues discussed at the LVAC or its sub-committees’ meetings, individuals who were interested in or with the relevant expertise might be invited to attend the meetings as observers. Mr. SO Ping-chi said that the

composition of the membership of the LVAC sub-committees was agreed and endorsed by LVAC members when LVAC was set up, and therefore it could only be changed with LVAC members' endorsement. Members had no further comments. The Chairman concluded that the Committee considered IMarEST's request could not be acceded to.

### ***Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Project***

16. Mr. Danny WU said that there had been a lot of media coverage on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project recently. Since the project would have considerable impact on vessel traffic activities near the Airport and in the Tuen Mun area, he was interested in relevant updated information on the project as soon as possible. Mr. Adam LAI replied that MD would liaise with relevant departments and report to members on the progress of the project accordingly.

### ***New Year's Eve Fireworks Display in Victoria Harbour***

17. When commenting on the arrangements for the New Year's Eve fireworks display, Mr. CHEUNG Yau-kwong said that there were too many activities in the Victoria Harbour, and that arrangements for the Chinese New Year's fireworks display would need to be planned accordingly. Mr. CHAN Hon-bun replied that a meeting with other departments would be held to obtain comments on the arrangements.

### ***Matters arising from Sub-committee meetings***

18. Mr. SO Ping-chi reported that meetings of sub-committees were held as and when necessary. The meeting of Sub-committee on Survey Works of Local Vessels had been held on 5.11.2008 and the meeting of the Sub-committee on Safety for Works on Vessels had been held on 12.11.2008. Progress had been made and discussion items had been resolved satisfactorily.

## **VI. Date of Next Meeting**

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:00 p.m. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.