

# LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Date : 24 June 2010 (Thursday)  
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. LO Hoi-yin, Ambrose	Representing Pleasure Boating Operations
Mr. TSUI Wai-hung	Hong Kong Police Force
Mr. SO Ping-chi	GM/LVS, MD
Mr. BUTT Lee-yuen	GM/Ops, MD
Secretary: Mr. John LEUNG	EO(C&G), MD

### In Attendance

Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai	HK & Kowloon Floating Fisherman Welfare Promotion Association
Mr. WONG Yiu-kan	Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders' Association Ltd.
Dr. HO Chi-shing, David	HK Ferry (Holdings) Co. Ltd.
Mr. KWOK Chi-hong	Marine Excursion Association Ltd.
Capt. WU Ka-shun	Hong Kong Shipping Staff Association
Ms. CHING Ngon-lai	Small Craft Workers Union
Mr. LEE Shing-hing	Sai Kung Ferry Traders Association
Mr. KWOK Chi-wan	HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association
Mr. TSANG Cheuk-yin	SMO/P&D(1), MD

### **Absent with apologies**

Mr. CHAK Kwok-leung	Representing Ferry Vessels' Operations
Mr. Danny WU	Representing River Trade Cargo Operations
Hon. WONG Yung-kan, JP	Representing Fishing Industry

### **Presentation of Papers**

Paper No. 1/2010	Mr. Peter LAW	Senior Engineer, Highways Department (HyD)
	Mr. Vincent LI	Engineer, HyD
	Mr. Conrad NG	Technical Director, AECOM
	Mr. Raymond PAU	Senior Engineer, AECOM

## **I. Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
2. He also welcomed the following guests from the Highways Department and its consultant, AECOM, who would present the LVAC Paper at the meeting: -

Mr. Peter LAW  
Mr. Vincent LI  
Mr. Conrad NG  
Mr. Raymond PAU

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

3. The minutes of the 7th meeting held on 20 October 2009 had been revised as per amendments proposed by members and 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. 1/2009 – “Consultation Paper on Implementation of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damages, 2001 in the HKSAR”*

4. The Chairman informed members that the proposed legislation had come into force with effect from 22 January 2010.

***LVAC Paper No. 10/2009 – “Amendments to Rules associated with Local Certificate of Competency”***

5. The Chairman informed members that the amendments had been made with effect from 18 December 2009.

***LVAC Paper No. 11/2009 – “Assessment of Typhoon Shelter Space Requirements (Submission of Draft Report)”***

6. The Chairman informed members that the draft report had been endorsed by the policy bureau on 17 December 2009. Mr. WONG Yiu-kan asked if copies of the report could be distributed to members for reference, and if a working group would be set up to prepare the next report. The Secretary undertook to send out copies of the report to members after the meeting. The Chairman said that members’ comments would be sought during the preparation of the next report.

*[Post-meeting note: Copies of the report had been sent to members on 25 June 2010.]*

***LVAC Paper No. 7/2009 – “Proposal to Enhance Enforcement against Smuggling Activities at Sea”***

7. The Chairman informed members that the proposed amendments to the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) had come into force with effect from 24 December 2009.

***LVAC Paper No. 13/2009 – “Amendments to the Requirements for the Authorization of Approved Persons issuing Gas Free Certificates”***

8. The Chairman informed members that the proposed amendments had been made after the last meeting.

***LVAC Paper No. 14/2009 – “Review of Air Quality Objectives”***

9. The Chairman said that as advised by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the trial of local ferries using ULSD (ultra low sulphur diesel) was now

expected to be completed in July 2010. Mr. WONG Miu-sang asked why the completion of the trial had been extended to July 2010 and if there was any further information on the trial. The Chairman replied that the reason for the extension was mainly because a ferry operator had joined the trial at a later stage. The Secretary undertook to gather further information from the EPD and report in a post-meeting note.

*[Post-meeting note: The EPD advised that the trial had commenced in August 2009 with 3 ferry operators, namely the New World First Ferry, Hong Kong & Kowloon Ferry, and Hongkong & Yaumati Ferry, contributing a total of 5 ferries for the trial. The Star Ferry had joined the trial in late April 2010 contributing 1 ferry. The trial of the original 3 ferry operators had been completed by the end of May 2010. The trial for the Star Ferry was now expected to be completed in July 2010.]*

10. Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai said that the Customs and Excise Department had seized a large amount of untaxed fuel during an anti-smuggling action recently, and as a result the amount of untaxed fuel smuggled into Hong Kong had dropped significantly. He asked if this fall in the untaxed fuel would have any effect on EPD's review on air quality as the types of fuel used and the level of emission would have been different. The Chairman said that EPD's study included estimated data, and the actual types of fuel used by different types of vessels would not have significant effect on the study. Mr. KEUNG also asked if the ferries would be further classified by their sizes of the vessels when the use of ULSD came into force eventually. The Chairman said that the EPD should consult operators of different types of vessels if the use of ULSD was implemented, and that there was no timetable for implementation at the moment.

***Marine Department Notice No. 139 of 2009 – “Requirement to Produce Local Certificates of Competency”***

11. The Chairman informed members that MD had looked into members' proposal of combining different certificates into one card. It had been found that there were some difficulties that needed to be resolved before the proposal could be implemented. The authorized officers responsible for inspecting the certificates would have to carry a special card-reader in order to check the information contained in the card; the authorized officer would be able to read the information of other certificates contained in the card; and if the certificates

were issued by different departments or organizations, agreement among them had to be obtained before combining the certificates in one card. The Chairman concluded that it was infeasible to implement the proposal for the moment, but MD would keep in view the development of related technology.

#### **IV. Presentation of Papers**

*LVAC Paper No. 1/2010 – “Central-Wan Chai Bypass (CWB) – Relocation Arrangement of the Affected Vessels in Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter (CBTS)”*

12. Mr. Peter LAW briefed members on the background of the paper and the relocation arrangement of the affected vessels in the CBTS. Mr. Raymond PAU briefed members on the relocation schedule and the temporary traffic management arrangement.
13. Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai commented that the mooring buoys for the larger vessels near the main navigation channel of Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter (ABDTS(S)) were too close, and the vessels would therefore collide with each other during typhoon. He also opined that the existing navigation channel was too narrow for two vessels passing through from opposite directions. Mr. Peter LAW said that the area concerned was within the gazetted typhoon shelter area and was protected by breakwaters, which were monitored and maintained regularly by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to ensure their integrity and safety. The consultants had also been studying the flow and wind speed in the area under typhoon condition.
14. Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai asked if the additional mooring buoys installed in the ABDTS(S) during the project would stay when the project was completed in six years' time. Mr. TSANG Cheuk-yin said that most relocated vessels would return to the CBTS when the project was completed. However, factors such as owners' preference, the size of the vessels, etc., might change over the years, and therefore the requirements for the mooring buoys in the ABDTS(S) might also change. As a result, the arrangements in the ABDTS(S) could only be finalized when the project was completed.
15. Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai said that a proposal had been submitted to the Town Planning Board recently suggesting that the number of shipyards at the

ABDTS(S) be reduced. Mr. KEUNG opined that with the increased number of vessels in the ABDTS(S), demand for the shipyards would be increased. He suggested that the review on typhoon shelters' space should also include the accessories and auxiliary services surrounding the shelters. The Chairman said that the number of shipyards and other facilities concerned the use of land, and therefore was not under the scope of the review on shelters' space or the ambit of MD. He also said that there were established procedures on processing proposals to change the use of land, and users concerned would be consulted before any proposals were implemented.

16. Mr. Ambrose LO asked if the work for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) had been included in the CWB project. Mr. Peter LAW said that under the CWB's contract, construction work of SCL protection works immediately above CWB could be constructed under the CWB project provided that the SCL protection works were authorized and the funding was secured timely. Mr. LO opined that the new channel in the CBTS was very narrow. He asked if there would be any large work barges plying in the CBTS during the project as this would affect the safety in the area. Mr. LAW said that specific channels would be allocated to barges and other CBTS vessels separately. The marine traffic arrangement in the CBTS would be discussed by the Marine Management Task Force with representatives from contractors, consultants, MD, HyD, and CBTS users' representatives. Mr. LO asked if there were any plans to enhance the harbour front when the project was completed. Mr. LAW said that the harbour front was being planned and the public would be consulted in due course.
17. Ms. CHING Ngon-lai asked if an owner who had replaced his vessel with a larger one would be allocated a larger space when returning to the CBTS. Mr. Peter LAW said that under the CWB project the size of the space to be allocated to any vessel owner would be the same as that recorded in MD's registry. Mr. BUTT Lee-yuen said that ship-owners should seek advice from MD when they planned to replace their vessels with larger ones. Mr. KWOK Chi-wan asked if the outlets of the sewage pipes in the CBTS would be removed to prevent pollution in the CBTS. Mr. Peter LAW said that this problem had been around for a long time, and HyD was liaising with other concerned government departments to try to resolve the problem.
18. In response to Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai's concern raised earlier about the safety of larger vessels near the main navigation channel of ABDTS(S) (Row XIII), Mr. Peter LAW sought the view of the members concerning installation of

mooring buoys at other typhoon shelters, such as Cheung Chau, Tai Tam for the use by the vessels in Row XIII during typhoon. Mr. TSANG Cheuk-yin said that some of the ship-owners in Row XIII had also raised concern about the safety of their vessels during typhoon. Mr. BUTT Lee-yuen suggested that users in Cheung Chau should be consulted before any additional buoys were laid there. Mr. TSANG said that HyD and its consultants would consult the users in Cheung Chau if the suggestion was supported by users. Mr. KWOK Chi-hong asked if this would mean that some users would have two buoys. Mr. TSANG said that these buoys would only be allowed to be used by those vessels mooring at Row XIII at the onset of typhoon signal if they had chosen to do so. Mr. TSANG asked Ms. CHING Ngon-lai to seek the views of the CBTS users. The consultant was also requested to review the mooring layout at Row XIII so as to provide a wider spacing between vessels and/or to re-align the mooring spaces to face the entrance of the typhoon shelter to avoid collision of vessels.

## **V. Any Other Business**

### ***Marine Department Notice No. 86 of 2010 – “Alteration to Local Vessels”***

19. Mr. SO Ping-chi informed members that the Marine Department Notice No. 86 of 2010 on alterations made to local vessels had been issued. He said that some owners had made alterations to their vessels and only had them inspected at the annual inspection in order to save cost. He reminded members that it was illegal to make any alterations to a vessel before obtaining prior permission from MD or a Competent Surveyor. Mr. SO also said that for pleasure vessels, for which surveys were not required before 2007, photographs of the alteration endorsed by MD or a Competent Surveyor would be acceptable in order to simplify the process. Mr. TAM Mo-pun asked if there was any definition for an alteration as some alterations appeared to be very minor and would not directly affect the safety of the vessels. The Chairman said that while it was not possible to provide a definition to cover all cases, an owner should consult MD or a Competent Surveyor if in doubt before making any alterations.

### ***Sub-committee meetings***

20. Mr. SO Ping-chi reported that meetings of Sub-committees on Survey Works of Local Vessels and Class III Vessels had been held on 26 May 2010 and 21 June

2010 respectively. Mr. SO also informed members that the next meeting of Sub-committee on Safety for Works on Vessels would be held on 13 July 2010.

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

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:25 p.m. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.