

## **LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Date** : 3 December 2015 (Thursday)  
**Time** : 2:30 p.m.  
**Place** : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building

#### **Present**

**Chairman:** Mr H. M. TUNG Deputy Director, Marine Department ('MD')

**Members:** Mr SZETO Feut Representing Ship Building and Repairing Industry

Mr NG Kwok-wing, Eric Representing Naval Architecture

Mr XIE Da-ming Representing Ship Survey Work  
(On behalf of Mr. HUANG Li-fan)

Mr MAK Chiu-ki Representing Seafarer's Training

Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy Representing Launch & Excursion Vessels' Operations

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai Representing Ferry Vessels' Operations

Mr Leon CHAN Representing Pleasure Boating Operations

Mr CHEUNG Yat-tung Representing Hong Kong Police Force ('HKPF')

(On behalf of Mr. K. L. LAU)

Mr K. F. TANG General Manager/Local Vessels Safety (Acting), MD

(*Presentation of Paper Nos. 17 and 18/2015*)

Mr H. B. CHAN General Manager/Operations, MD

**Secretary:** Mr Anson M. C. SINN Executive Officer (Committee & General), MD

#### **In Attendance**

Mr. CHOR Yee-on The Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings) Co. Ltd.

Mr YIM Hing-yip Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders' Association Ltd.

Mr LI Chi-keung Marine Excursion Association Ltd.

Ms Tiffany LEE Marine Excursion Association Ltd.

Mr KWOK Chi-hong Marine Excursion Association Ltd.

Mr LEE Shing-hing Sai Kung Ferry Traders Association

Mr FAN Keung Small Craft Workers Union

Mr KWOK Tak-kee HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats

Mr Emil PUI Association Ltd.  
 HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats  
 Association Ltd.

Mr WU Ka-shun South China Towing Company  
 Mr LAM Yan-chit Hong Kong Pilots Association  
 Mr S. F. WONG Assistant Director (Special Duties), MD  
 Mr W. H. WONG Senior Administration Officer (Special Duties),  
 MD

Mr Jerry TANG Senior Surveyor of Ships (Special Duties), MD  
*(Presentation of Paper Nos. 16 and 19/2015)*

Mr L. K. LAW Senior Marine Officer/Harbour Patrol Section (1),  
 MD  
*(Presentation of Paper No. 15/2015)*

Mr T. F. LI Senior Marine Officer/Planning &  
 Development (3), MD  
*(Present for Paper No. 14/2015)*

Mr David LAM District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun and Yuen  
 Long West, Planning Department ('PlanD')  
*(Presentation of Paper No. 14/2015)*

Ms Polly YIP Senior Town Planner/Special Duties, PlanD  
*(Present for Paper No. 14/2015)*

Mr Daniel LAM Chief Engineer/New Territories West 2 (New  
 Territories West), Civil Engineering and  
 Development Department ('CEDD')  
*(Present for Paper No. 14/2015)*

Mr Freddie TSANG Senior Engineer/2 (New Territories West),  
 CEDD  
*(Present for Paper No. 14/2015)*

Mr Stephen Y. Y. LAI Managing Director, Water & Urban  
 Development, Hong Kong, AECOM Asia Co.  
 Ltd. ('AECOM')  
*(Presentation of Paper No. 14/2015)*

Ms Janice TAM Associate Director, AECOM  
*(Present for Paper No. 14/2015)*

### **Absent with Apologies**

Mr WAN Guo-qing Representing Cargo Vessels' Operations  
 Mr WONG Leung-wai Representing Marine Insurance Industry  
 Mr SIU Ping-wing Representing Seafarer's Associations  
 Mr Kevin FAN Representing River Trade Cargo Operations  
 Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin Representing Fishing Industry

## Action

### **I. Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, and extended welcome particularly to the following attendees on behalf of other members:
  - Mr XIE Da-ming (on behalf of Mr HUANG Li-fan), representing Ship Survey Work
  - Mr CHEUNG Yat-tung (on behalf of Mr K. L. LAU), representing HKPF

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

- Secretary
2. The minutes (bilingual version) of the 18th meeting held on 18.8.2015 were circulated to members on 29.10.2015. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.
  3. [ Post-meeting note: The minutes of the 18th meeting were uploaded to the MD's website on 9.12.2015.<sup>1</sup> ]

### **III. New Discussion Items**

- PlanD, CEDD and their consultant "AECOM"
- (i) Paper No. 14/2015 – Planning and Engineering Study for Tuen Mun Areas 40 and 46 and the Adjoining Areas
  4. Mr David LAM (District Planning Officer / Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West, PlanD) briefly introduced that PlanD and CEDD had commissioned AECOM as the consultant to conduct the Planning and Engineering Study for Tuen Mun Areas 40 and 46 and the Adjoining Areas ('the Study') with a view to formulating appropriate land use and development parameters for areas under the Study.
  5. Mr Stephen Y. Y. LAI (Managing Director, Water & Urban Development, Hong Kong, AECOM) presented the paper and informed members that the purpose of the Stage 1 Community Engagement was to seek the views of the community and stakeholders on the proposed land use for areas under the Study which included:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac\\_m150818.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m150818.pdf)

- (a) land use: the proposed modern logistics / green industry use;
  - (b) development scale: the proposed development density;
  - (c) development strategy: the development priority of the Potential Development Areas ('PDAs').
6. Members noted that Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin had submitted his views in writing on 3.12.2015 as follows:
- (a) urging the government departments concerned to examine if the prevailing land use in the PDAs would be relocated to other places; if so, to study the impact of such relocation on the fishing industry of other areas;
  - (b) urging the government departments concerned to conduct a detailed study on the possible impact of the project on the fishing industry and provide the findings as soon as possible, and endeavor to formulate a development plan that cast no adverse impact on the fishing industry;
  - (c) requesting the government departments concerned to provide reasonable compensation and policy support to safeguard fishermen's livelihood and interests should the project cast adverse impact on their interests.
7. [ Post-meeting note: PlanD replied to Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin in writing on 22.12.2015. The reply was summarised as follows:
- If the development proposal or project concerned involved the waters in the vicinity, the consultant would carefully consider and study the possible impact on the operation of the fishing industry. ]
8. Mr Leon CHAN suggested dividing "PDA-C" into two zones. The left (western) zone could be developed mainly for industrial use and redevelopment could be encouraged through different means such as providing compensation, whereas pleasure vessel berthing facilities, a dolphin museum and hotels could be built in the right (eastern) zone with a view to developing into a tourist attraction.

9. Mr David LAM responded that “PDA-C” was mainly occupied by existing sawmills, machine repair workshops, etc. If the area was to be developed, the prevailing industrial operations in the area might be affected. In addition, as most of the industrial uses in the area were operated under Short Term Tenancies, if the government took the lead in relocating those sawmills or workshops, it would involve the use of public money and land resources. This would hinge on whether there would be policy support and whether any bureau would take the lead.
10. Mr KWOK Tak-kee opined that it would be better to keep “PDA-C” for industrial use, while the shoreline of its waterfront should be preserved to allow the industry to take part in sea transport and logistics.
11. Mr YIM Hing-yip seconded that motion and agreed with paragraph 8(c) of the paper that additional supporting facilities such as typhoon shelter should be introduced to the area. He also hoped that PlanD and CEDD would continue to consult the industry, including the Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders’ Association Ltd. and the HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association Ltd. in Stage 2 in future.
12. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai commented that the review on the land use planning should not be confined to the New Territories West but a development outline should be drafted to cover the overall land use planning of various districts in Hong Kong. Also, Mr CHEUNG expressed his concerns about paragraph 8(f) of the paper which mentioned that about 9,500 job opportunities would be created as estimated by the Study. He was worried that those job opportunities might compete with the transport and logistics job opportunities on the coast of Hong Kong island and lead to excess supply. Mr CHEUNG also asked whether the proposed land use would be implemented by means of three-year Short Term Tenancies or land auction.
13. Mr David LAM responded that the mode of implementation had yet to be confirmed and it would be studied after the land use had been decided. Upon the Chairman’s enquiry, Mr LAM added that although the Stage 1 consultation had completed, members would still be welcome to give their

views on the Study within two weeks after this meeting. The Chairman suggested PlanD consider the views of different members.

GM/Ops (ii) Paper No. 15/2015 – Discussion of the Collision of a Vessel towards the Kap Shui Mun Bridge on 23.10.2015

14. Mr L. K. LAW (SMO/HPS(1), MD) presented the paper to members. The paper aimed to discuss the actions taken in response to the collision of a vessel at the Kap Shui Mun Bridge and set out preventive measures to avoid re-occurrence of the incident in future.
15. The Chairman requested members to ask owners or operators of vessels to note that vessels exceeding the height limit were prohibited from entering the height restricted areas of the bridges.
16. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai said that the floodlights of the barges in the vicinity of the Sulphur Channel at night-time affected the navigational safety of vessels along the channel. He hoped that MD would include the topic of use of lights in the seminar on navigational safety.
17. Mr H. B. CHAN (GM/Ops, MD) responded that the existing legislation of Hong Kong had imposed regulation on use of lights and MD would include the topic of use of lights in the seminar on navigational safety.
18. [ Post-meeting note: See Section 38 “Use of lights” of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Regulation (Cap. 548F) and Regulation 63 “Use of lights” of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Cap. 313A). In addition, in the seminar on navigational safety held by MD on 6.1.2016, the topic of use of lights had been added accordingly. ]
19. Mr L. K. LAW supplemented that the height restrictions on vessels in different height restricted areas were set out on the brochure in Appendix 1 of the paper<sup>2</sup> for reference of the operators of vessels and the general public.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp15\\_15anx1.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp15_15anx1.pdf) (Only the Chinese version is available)

20. Mr NG Kwok-wing, Eric suggested that MD should install closed-circuit television ('CCTV') at certain locations in Hong Kong waters to monitor marine traffic. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai seconded the motion.
21. Mr L. K. LAW responded that currently, tracking radar was mainly used by MD. Mr H. B. CHAN added that CCTV also had its limitations. For example, when vessels were at dusk or night-time, albeit CCTV images were available, it was difficult to distinguish the height of the mast and determine its motion. It was then still necessary for MD to deploy patrol launches to take enforcement action on site. In addition, prior to using CCTV, MD had to objectively evaluate whether there were other pragmatic ways as well as the urgency, specific purposes and efficacy, etc. of using CCTV. Mr CHAN continued that after the meeting, the Department and the Marine Police could exchange their views on the effectiveness when using CCTV to monitor the harbour activities.
22. As members raised no further comments, Paper No. 15/2015 was endorsed.

SSoS (SD) (iii)

Paper No. 16/2015 –  
Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Radar on Local Passenger  
Vessels

23. Mr Jerry TANG (SSoS (SD), MD) presented the paper to members and reported the details of the subsidy scheme for installation of radar on local passenger vessels.
24. Mr S. F. WONG (AD(SD), MD) elaborated on the "application period" in paragraph 4 of the paper. He said that MD was open to extension of the application period, subject to the legislative progress in respect of installation of radar on local vessels as well as whether there were sufficient qualified radar operators in the industry to implement the radar installation measures. He urged members to apply for the subsidy scheme soonest at the present stage.
25. Regarding paragraph 11 of the paper which stated that "91 candidates had successfully completed the training course on radar operation (Hong Kong Waters)", Mr WEN Tsz-kit,

- Bondy enquired about the background of those 91 candidates, such as whether they were shipowners, whether they operated local passenger vessels or other types of vessels, for example, pleasure vessels, tug boats, etc.
26. Mr FAN Keung replied that approximately one third of the participants were local vessel operators, while two-thirds were pleasure vessel operators. The Small Craft Workers Union planned to organise two classes of the training course in 2016 for the associations concerned.
  27. Mr S. F. WONG added that the course had been listed in the “Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme” under the “Maritime and Aviation Training Fund”, which was affirmed by the Chairman. Trainees who completed the course successfully could apply for a reimbursement of 80% of the course fee.
  28. Mr KWOK Chi-hong enquired about the consequences for the applicants in the event that the radar was not installed after receiving the installation subsidy or if the crew who operated the radar had not completed the radar operation training course approved by MD.
  29. Mr Jerry TANG responded that the installation of the conformed radar would help enhance navigational safety. Mr TANG reiterated paragraph 9 of the paper and part 4 of the application form, that the applicant must undertake upon receipt of the subsidy that the conformed radar on board should not be removed without good cause and must ensure that crew members qualified to operate the radar were on board the vessel for radar operation during navigation, otherwise he/she should be liable to full or partial repayment to the Government of any subsidy already paid as MD might determine.
  30. As members raised no further comment, Paper No. 16/2015 was endorsed.
  31. [Post-meeting note: The amended version of this paper (in English and Chinese) was sent to members via email on 18 December 2015 by the Secretary. The original text “on or after 1 January 2014” in paragraph (5)(f) of the “Eligibility Criteria” on page 2 of the Paper No. 16/2015 was amended to



“on or after 25 April 2014”, and the same amendment was made to paragraph (4)(f) of the Notes on page 6 of the “Application Form” (Annex of the Paper).

The proposal of the installation of Automatic Identification System (‘AIS’), radar and Very High Frequency (‘VHF’) radiotelephone had been endorsed by the Local Vessels Advisory Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2014.<sup>3</sup> The date of the installation of subsidised radar should be on or after 25 April 2014, i.e. in line with the date of the installation of subsidised AIS “on or after 25 April 2014” in the “Subsidy Scheme for Installation of AIS on Local Passenger Vessels”.<sup>4</sup>]

GM/LVS (iv) LVAC Paper No. 17/2015 – Proposal on Optional Installation of Sea Connection Fish Hold on Fishing Sampans  
(Ag)

32. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) presented the paper to members, and sought members’ endorsement of the proposal of MD regarding the optional installation of a sea-connection fish-hold on fishing sampans.
33. The Chairman wished to know whether sea-connection fish-holds could be installed on existing and new fishing sampans.
34. Mr K. F. TANG replied in the affirmative.
35. As members raised no further comment, Paper No. 17/2015 was endorsed. MD would amend the relevant Code of Practice to implement the proposal accordingly.

GM/LVS (v) LVAC Paper No. 18/2015 – Amendments to Requirements on Awnings on Fishing Sampans  
(Ag)

36. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) presented the paper to

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<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 3 to 8 of the Minutes at [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac\\_m140425.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m140425.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 4(e) of the Notes in the Application Form at [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/lvs\\_ais.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/lvs_ais.pdf)

members, and sought members' endorsement of the amendments to the requirements on awnings on fishing sampans that, the permissible length of an awning installed on a fishing sampan could be extended, as appropriate, to up to 70% of the length of the vessel, subject to its compliance with revised conditions (set out in paragraph 4 of the paper), including that the awning should be in the form of a canopy (i.e. open on all sides beneath and unenclosed).

37. The Chairman reiterated that the awning should be open on all sides and unenclosed.
38. As members raised no further comment, Paper No. 18/2015 was endorsed. MD would amend the relevant Code of Practice to implement the proposal accordingly.

SSoS(SD) (vi)

LVAC Paper No. 19/2015 –  
Miscellaneous Amendments to Code of Practice – Safety  
Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels and Code of  
Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels

39. Mr Jerry TANG (SSoS(SD), MD) presented the paper to members, and sought members' endorsement of the miscellaneous amendments to Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels and Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels proposed by MD.
40. As members raised no further comment, Paper No. 19/2015 was endorsed. MD would amend the relevant Code of Practice accordingly.

#### IV. Any Other Business

##### (i) The Mark on the Main Engine of Class I Vessels

GM/LVS  
(Ag)

41. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) informed members that with effect from 1 January 2016, a mark should be engraved on brand new main engines installed on newly built or existing Class I vessels for identification and for MD officers to identify the engine during vessel surveys. The mark should be in the format of a serial number starting with “LVS(M1)” followed by four alphabetical numbers, for example, LVS(M1)0001, LVS(M1)0002, etc., to facilitate the inspection of safety device of main engines on vessels by MD officers.
42. The Chairman enquired why the existing main engine of existing Class I vessels would be excluded from the proposed arrangement.
43. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman, Mr TANG said that since it was not possible to confirm during surveys of vessels whether the existing main engines installed on existing Class I vessels were produced by original manufacturers and whether these engines were the ones originally installed when the vessels were being constructed, the measure of engraving a mark on the main engine would only be applicable to brand new main engines on new or existing vessels.
44. [ Post-meeting note: Due to the time required for better implementation of the engine marking system, the effective date is revised as starting from 1 March 2016. ]

##### (ii) VHF Radiotelephone

GM/LVS  
(Ag)

45. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) informed members that they could apply to the Communication Authority (‘CA’) for or enquire about type-approval or type-acceptance of portable VHF radiotelephone equipment by themselves or through unions/associations.

46. [Post-meeting notes: The information related to application or enquiry can be retrieved from the webpage of CA (OFCA I 401(15) Issue 19, January 2015).<sup>5</sup>]

(iii) Subsidy Scheme for Installation of AIS on Local Passenger Vessels

GM/LVS  
(Ag)

47. Referring to item IV.(iii) in the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) reminded members that the deadline for application was 31 January 2016.

(iv) Members noted that Mr KEUNG Siu-fai (Hong Kong & Kowloon Floating Fisherman Welfare Promotion Association) suggested in writing on 26 November 2015 the following items be discussed in this Committee:

GM/LVS  
(Ag)

(a) Regarding expediting the progress of plan approval for various types of vessels and the monitoring mechanism:

48. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) remarked that the Department had employed three Contract Senior Ship Inspectors in March 2015 designated for plan approval and improvement of the examination mechanism of plans approved by competent surveyors. Since implementation of the measure, the number of plans pending for approval had dropped substantially from nearly 9 000 at the beginning of this year to about 3 000 at present. In order to further expedite the approval of plans, subject to the availability of resources, MD intended to boost the number of personnel designated for plan approval.

49. Mr K. F. TANG continued that regarding Mr KEUNG Siu-fai's request for the ratio of plans of different types of vessels approved by MD and contract surveyors, relevant statistic figures were not available. Generally speaking, the priority of plan approval was not determined by the type of vessel but the order of plan submission. The Local Vessels Safety Section ('LVSS') had put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance (on survey of vessel and plan approval, etc.) of competent surveyors. As such, shipowners could contact the LVSS if they had any comment on the service of competent surveyors.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/i401e.pdf>

50. [Post-meeting notes: The list of recognised authorities, authorised organisations and authorised surveyors (updated on 17 April 2015) can be downloaded from MD webpage.<sup>6</sup>]

GM/LVS  
(Ag)

- (b) Regarding the record of minor alterations not related to safety in the form of endorsement attached to plans:

51. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) responded that the LVSS was contemplating to accept minor alterations not related to safety in the form of endorsement attached to plans. This notwithstanding, the ordinance(s) concerned should be clarified and the definition and scope of minor alterations should be clearly laid down to facilitate the inspection of vessels by front-line officers and avoid arguments with shipowners.

- (c) Regarding the fire in Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter on 25 September 2015:

52. Mr K. F. TANG (GM/LVS(Ag), MD) said that MD understood that Mr WONG Yiu-kan of Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders' Association Ltd., the convener of the Joint Conference of Hong Kong Marine Sectors, would invite relevant departments to discuss the co-ordination work for the fire in typhoon shelter.

GM/Ops

53. Mr H. B. Chan (GM/Ops, MD) added that MD and Fire Services Department, and the Hong Kong Police Force, etc., had held the first inter-departmental meeting on fire prevention in typhoon shelters on 22 October 2015. They also had held a seminar on fire prevention in typhoon shelters on 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month, and had conducted a joint inspection with relevant departments on 4 November, during which MD officers distributed promotion leaflets to personnel on board and reminded them to pay attention to fire safety and take preventive measures as appropriate.

54. [Post-meeting notes: The promotional leaflet has been uploaded to the webpage of MD.<sup>7</sup>]

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/ocean/pdf/lvs\\_list.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_list.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/pdf/hps\\_firepre.pdf](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/pdf/hps_firepre.pdf)

Secretary (iv) Tung Chung New Town Extension

55. The Secretary reported that CEDD would hold a seminar on “Tung Chung New Town Extension Reclamation Works” to discuss the impact of the proposed reclamation works on marine traffic, at 2:30pm on 22 December 2015 at Rm LR1, 3/F, North Point Government Officers. Members’ participation and comments in the seminar would be welcome.
56. [Post-meeting notes: The Secretary distributed LVAC Paper No. 20/2015 “Tung Chung New Town Extension” to members by email on 16 December 2015. The document was uploaded to the webpage on 31 December 2015.]

**V. Adjournment of Meeting**

57. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.
58. The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2016.

Committee Unit  
Marine Department  
Ref.: HQ/COM 425/1(15)