

**LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

Date : 9 December 2022 (Friday)  
Time : 3:00 p.m.  
Place : Marine Department Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building  
(Officers of Marine Department and representatives of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)  
Video Conference  
(Members and other attendees)

Present

<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr S. F. WONG	Deputy Director, Marine Department (“MD”)
<b>Members:</b>	Ms WONG Ching-sze	Senior Inspector (Marine Administration and Support) (Regional Command and Control Centre), Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
	Mr WU Kou-qing	General Manager/Operations, MD
	Mr CHAN See-yin	General Manager/Local Vessels, MD
	Ms LO Chung-shi, Karen	Ship Building and Repairing Industry
	Mr CHEN Wai-sang, Simon	Naval Architecture
	Mr TIAN Dong-ming	Ship Survey Work
	Mr WONG Chi-ming	Seafarers’ Training
	Mr FAN Keung	Seafarers’ Associations
	Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy	Launch and Excursion Vessels’ Operations
	Mr WAN Chi-kwong	Ferry Vessels’ Operations
	Mr FONG Chi-fai	River Trade Cargo Operations
	Mr WOO Cho-wing, John	Pleasure Boating Operations
	Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun	Fishing industry
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ms LIU Ka-yu, Athena	Executive Officer (General & Committee), MD

In Attendance

	Mr SHI Qiang	Assistant Director/Local Vessels and Examination, MD
	Mr LAW Lap-keung	Assistant Director/Planning and Services, MD
	Mr LAM Wai-lim, William	Senior Statistician, MD
	Mr WONG Ka-wai, Spring	Contract Statistician, MD

Mr NG Yiu-lun	Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities(1), MD
Mr LAM Kong-hei, Yale David	Senior Surveyor of Ships/ Local Vessels Safety, MD
Mr WANG Jian-jun	Senior Marine Officer/Planning and Development(2), MD
Mr TANG Hung-fai	Senior Marine Officer/Planning and Development(1), MD
Mr YU Kin-chung	Senior Surveyor of Ships/Seafarers and Examination(2), MD
Prof YANG Dong	Associate Professor and Associate Head, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Prof Stephen LI	Professor of Practice, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Prof YIP Tsz-leung	Associate Professor, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Dr TONG Hang-fa, Judy	Lecturer, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Ms LI Lu	PhD Student, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mr LU Yu-xu	MPhil Student, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mr Emil PUI	HK & Kowloon Motor Boats and Tug Boats Association Limited

Absent with apologies

Mr ZHAO Qi-jing, Steven	Marine Insurance Industry
Mr WING Yik-sun, Andrew	Cargo Vessels' Operations

**Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed all members, representatives of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and officers of the MD to the meeting. The Chairman introduced the members of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (“LVAC”)

for 2022-2024 with a two-year tenure from 8 December 2022 to 7 December 2024. The Committee comprises Chairman, three official members and 12 non-official members. The Chairman apprised all of the house rules of the LVAC.

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

1. With the Chairman's confirmation, members unanimously endorsed the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes would be uploaded to the website of the MD.

(Post-meeting note: The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting was uploaded to the website of the MD on 12 January 2023.)

## **II. Information Items**

### **(i) LVAC Paper No. 16/2022 – Assessment of Typhoon Shelter Space Requirements**

1. Prof YANG Dong (Associate Professor and Associate Head, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) explained the report on assessment of typhoon shelter space requirements. The study findings showed that as typhoon shelters and sheltered anchorages were open to all classes of local vessels on a first-come-first-served basis, it was expected that the supply of sheltered space for local vessels could adequately meet the demand throughout the period up to 2035 on a territory-wide basis.
2. Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy (Launch and Excursion Vessels' Operations) enquired whether the outcomes of the report had to be achieved by rationalising management; and whether the actual situation was used for evaluation and comparison. In addition, Mr WEN enquired whether the Lantau Tomorrow Vision project was included in the study findings, because he believed that the number of local vessels would increase significantly due to the project. He hoped that the MD could pay more attention to this aspect.
3. Prof YANG responded that through rationalising management, in theory more vessels would be able to berth. The study also explored the feasibility of using herringbone-shaped berthing spaces in typhoon shelters, but found that the supply of berthing spaces would be greatly reduced.
4. Mr LAW Lap-keung (Assistant Director/Planning and Services, MD) expressed that the study was an assessment on the existing and projected situations of demand and supply of sheltered space for local vessels to take refuge during passages of typhoons on a territory-wide basis, which did not include the possible impact of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands project. The MD would closely monitor the progress of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands project for

appropriate follow-ups.

5. Mr WOO Cho-wing, John (Pleasure Boating Operations) enquired whether the report had considered the current presence of large vessels. Prof YANG responded that the size of different vessels had been taken into consideration since distribution of vessels of various sizes was spotted in the aerial photos taken during the study, and the classification of vessels had in fact classified the size of vessels.
6. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry Vessels' Operations) would like to study with the MD the situation of more than 20 new ferries taking shelter in the future. The Chairman said that the request would be recorded in the meeting minutes, and Mr WEN could follow up with the MD after the meeting.
7. Mr TIAN Dong-ming (Ship Survey Work) commended the completeness and clarity of the report. Mr TIAN suggested that continuous attention be paid to the impact of economic development and political factors on the rising number of vessels in the future. Mr TIAN also suggested that enhancement measures could be considered to manage typhoon shelters in an efficient manner.
8. Members noted the LVAC Paper No. 16/2022.

**(ii) LVAC Paper No. 17/2022—Attaching Licence Conditions to the Operating Licence of Class IV Vessels Permitted to be Let for Hire or Reward**

1. Mr NG Yiu-lun (Senior Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities, MD) explained the LVAC Paper No. 17/2022. He reported that the information paper aimed to inform members about the arrangement on attaching two new licence conditions to the Operating Licence of Class IV vessels permitted to be let for hire or reward, i.e. A: The vessel shall display in its cabin in a conspicuous position of: (i) [X] poster(s) of Common Lifejacket User Guide (for passengers to scan the QR code at the bottom left corner of the poster to watch the demonstration videos) or other suitable lifejacket user guides; (ii) [X] QR Code poster(s) for passengers to check and confirm that the vessel is permitted to be let for hire or reward; and B: the vessel shall display a lifejacket sticker at each lifejacket stowage location.
2. Mr Simon CHEN (Naval Architecture) enquired about the number of “X” and the definition of a conspicuous position. Mr NG responded that “X” should be equal to "No. of Passengers Permitted to Carry" divided by 20 (round up) and that the posters and stickers should be displayed in its cabin in a

conspicuous position.

3. Members noted the LVAC Paper No. 17/2022.

**(iii) LVAC Paper No. 18/2022 - Consolidated amendments to Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II, III and IV Vessels**

1. Mr LAM Kong-hei, Yale David (Senior Surveyor of Ships/Local Vessels Safety, MD) explained the LVAC Paper No. 18/2022. Mr LAM indicated that the MD conducted regular reviews of the Codes of Practice. Comments from the industry would also be taken into consideration. The recent review suggested amendments covering the following areas: (a) clarifications of certain provisions; (b) correction of editorial errors; and (c) deletion of obsolete clauses.
2. Members had no comments and noted the LVAC Paper No. 18/2022.

**III. New Discussion Item**

**(i) LVAC Paper No. 19/2022 - Implementation of Fast Speed Passenger Vessel Endorsement Regime**

1. Mr LAM Kong-hei, Yale David (Senior Surveyor of Ships/Local Vessels Safety, MD) explained the LVAC Paper No. 19/2022. He reported that further to the LVAC Paper No. 22/2021 which was introduced at the 31st LVAC meeting held on 30 December 2021 and after having taken into account subsequent feedback from the industry, this paper aimed to consult members on the implementation details of the Fast Speed Passenger Vessel (FSPV) endorsement regime. Subject to no adverse comments received from members, the amended rules would come into effect on 1 January 2023, and they would be gazetted and posted on the MD's website accordingly.
2. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry Vessels' Operations) enquired about the persons in command of local vessels as well as the knowledge content that the paper was targeted at. Mr LAM said that Annex 2 provided the current latest proposal. Mr Emil PUI (HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats

Association Limited) indicated that there had been sufficient communication with the industry regarding the content of the paper and the details were clearly provided.

3. Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy (Launch and Excursion Vessels' Operations) enquired about the vessels that would be subject to the new endorsement. Mr LAM responded that the proposed vessels were Class I vessels with maximum cruising speed above 20 knots, i.e. locally licensed FSPVs.
4. After discussion, members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 19/2022.

**(ii) LVAC Paper No. 20/2022 – Re-arrangement of Marine Facilities in the Southwestern Waters**

1. Mr WANG Jian-jun (Senior Marine Officer/Planning and Development (2)) explained the LVAC Paper No. 20/2022. He indicated that the paper aimed to seek Members' endorsement of the proposal to re-arrange the marine facilities in the southwestern waters of Hong Kong to cope with the changes in traffic pattern and to meet the latest operational requirements. The proposed re-arrangements should include: (a) repeal of a Recommended Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS); (b) establishment of a new fairway system; (c) establishment of a new multi-purpose anchorage; (d) establishment of a new pilot boarding station; and (e) adjustment of aids to navigation.
2. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry vessels' operations) expressed support and enquired whether the proposal would affect the existing Recommend TSS in the northern waters of Cheung Chau. Mr WANG said that it would not be affected at this stage.
3. After discussion, Members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 20/2022.

**(iii) LVAC Paper No. 21/2022 –Adjustments of Passage Areas in Statutory Typhoon Shelters**

1. Mr TANG Hung-fai (Senior Marine Officer/Planning and Development (1)) explained the LVAC Paper No. 21/2022. He stated that the paper aimed to brief Members on the proposal of adjusting passage areas at statutory typhoon shelters

for enhancement of fire safety. The adjustment of passage areas could be put in place in the first quarter of 2023. The Chairman pointed out that (ii) Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter should be included in paragraph 6 of the paper.

2. Mr WAN Tsz-kit, Bondy (Launch and Excursion Vessels' Operations) asked if there were vessels currently berthing in the passage areas subjected to adjustment. Mr TANG observed that the adjustment in Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter would affect certain vessels and their related private moorings, and the MD had contacted the relevant vessels for subsequent relocation.
3. After discussion, Members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 21/2022.

**(iv) LVAC Paper No. 22/2022 – Authorization of the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge to conduct Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency Examinations**

1. Mr YU Kin-chung (Senior Surveyor of Ships/Seafarers and Examination(2), MD) explained the LVAC Paper No. 22/2022. He expressed that the paper aimed to consult members on the MD's proposal to authorize the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge, member of Vocational Training Council Group, to conduct Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency Grade 2 Examinations. Tentatively, the arrangement would be implemented in Q2/2023.
2. Mr Simon CHEN (Naval Architecture) enquired whether the department could recognize the pleasure vessel certificates issued by the Mainland. The Chairman said the knowledge involved in the local examinations for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificates was different from that required in the Mainland, therefore the department could not recognize relevant certificates issued by the Mainland at present.
3. After discussion, members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 22/2022.

**IV. Any Other Business**

1. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry vessels' operations) complimented the Harbour Patrol Section of the Operations Branch through the meeting on proactively

following up on the industry's request.

2. Ms WONG Ching-size (Senior Inspector (Marine Administration and Support) (Regional Command and Control Centre), HKPF) said the Police hoped to continue following up on the proposed introduction of a survey mechanism for pleasure vessels fitted with high-power engines through the inter-departmental joint working group comprising the Police, the Customs and Excise Department and the MD. The Chairman indicated that the matter would be passed to Mr WU Kou-qing (General Manager/Operations, MD) for the Harbour Patrol Section's follow-up.
3. The Chairman said that currently towing voyage surveys should be conducted either by surveyor of an MD recognized organization (RO) or Authorized Surveyors (AS) appointed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance according to the intended voyages. However, there were a number of cases that the ROs of the MD could not carry out towing voyage surveys. In view of this, the department advocated accepting towing surveys conducted by authorized surveyor of Flag State of the tow in accordance with the International Maritime Organization Guidelines. If no comment was received from members, the MD would issue relevant consultation paper after the meeting. No comment was given by members during the meeting.

*[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat of the LVAC issued the LVAC Paper No. 23/2022 regarding "Revision to Marine Department Notice in relation to Towing Voyage Survey" on 15 December 2022. No comment was received from members before the deadline, therefore the paper was endorsed.]*

## **V. Adjournment of Meeting**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

Marine Department

Committee Unit

Ref.: L/M(7) to MD-COM F02-000-01A-001