

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the 33rd Meeting

Date : 28 December 2023 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Place : Marine Department Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building

Present

Chairman:	Mr S. F. WONG	Deputy Director, Marine Department (“MD”)
Members:	Mr LIN Guoxu	General Manager/Operations, MD
	Mr CHAN See-yin	General Manager/Local Vessels, MD
	Mr WONG Chi-ming	Seafarers’ Training
	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 YEUNG Sheung-chun	Fishing industry
	Mr ZHAO Qi-jing, Steven	Marine Insurance Industry
	Mr LEE Kim-fung, Kenneth	Cargo Vessels’ Operations
Secretary:	Ms LIU Ka-yu, Athena	Executive Officer (General & Committee), MD

In Attendance

Mr LAM Kong-hei, Yale David	Senior Surveyor of Ships/ Local Vessels Safety, MD
Ms YIU Yi-lun, Iris	Senior Marine Officer/Vessel Traffic Centre
Mr LAU Tik-sum *	Senior Inspector, Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Mr LUI Man-hon, Frank	Senior Manager (Tourism), Tourism Commission
Mr TSANG Cheuk-yin	Consultancy Team Leader
Mr YANG Dong	Associate Professor and Research Director, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Ms Helen Underwood	Project Coordinator

Mr Emil PUI * Secretary, HK & Kowloon Motor Boats and Tug Boats Association Limited

Mr LAI Hoi-ping * Representative of Harbour Transportation Workers General Union

(* Observers)

Absent with apologies

Ms YUEN Ching-fong, Rebecca Superintendent (Operations) (Marine Regional Headquarters), HKPF

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 FAN Keung Seafarers' Associations

Mr WOO Cho-wing, John Pleasure Boating Operations

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting. The Chairman introduced the observers, and 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 32nd meeting was uploaded to the website of the MD on 4 January 2024.)

II. New Discussion Item

(i) LVAC Paper No. 16/2023 – Promoting More Frequent and Flexible Use of the Central Fairway by International Cruise Ships

1. Mr LUI Man-hon, Frank (Senior Manager (Tourism), Tourism Commission) briefly introduced the purpose of the paper. Ms Helen Underwood (Project Coordinator) explained the content of the meeting paper to members in the form of a presentation.

2. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry Vessels' Operations) expressed his full support and assented to publishing the Central Fairway transit schedule in advance to inform harbour users and the general public by the terminal operator of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal ("KTCT").
3. The Chairman pointed out that in the paper it was mentioned that cruise ships calling at KTCT and with length overall 120m or above were at present required to apply to the Vessel Traffic Centre ("VTC") of the MD for approval if they wished to conduct Central Harbour Transit ("CHT"). The MD had reservations about the word "approval" used in the text. The Chairman added that vessels navigating in the harbour were at present not required to apply for written approvals. The existing mechanism was that any movement of vessels must be reported to the VTC of the MD and permission for that movement had to be sought; while the VTC would give instructions accordingly subject to marine traffic situations at that time.
4. Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun (Fishing industry) asked the Tourism Commission about the anticipated utilisation rate under the trial scheme. Mr LUI Man-hon, Frank (Senior Manager (Tourism), Tourism Commission) responded that the cruise schedule for the coming 24-month trial period was already uploaded on KTCT's website. According to the present booking status of KTCT, it was estimated that the number of ship calls during the transit window time from 19:00 to 22:00 would be no more than 100 each year.
5. After discussion, members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 16/2023.

(ii) LVAC Paper No. 18/2023 – Use of Alternative Fuels in Hong Kong

1. Mr LAM Kong-hei, Yale David (Senior Surveyor of Ships/Local Vessels Safety, MD) explained the LVAC Paper No. 18/2023.
2. Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy (Launch and Excursion Vessels' Operations) indicated that the industry at present did not have experience in using alternative fuels and enquired whether there was any available information regarding successful adoption of alternative fuels/alternative fuels in use in other neighbouring ports that the local industry could draw reference from. Mr WEN supplemented that the MD might need to consider the provision of crew training related to bunkering services in the future.
3. The Chairman pointed out that there were already vessels fueled by liquefied natural gas ("LNG") and bunkering services in the Yantian District. The Chairman added that at present many new vessels, including international cruise

ships, had been using LNG as fuel. Therefore, LNG terminals in Hong Kong also planned to provide LNG bunkering services to ocean-going vessels arriving in Hong Kong in the future. As regards training, the Chairman opined that operation associated with LNG required both professional training and hands-on experience, so it could not be achieved in one go. For instance, a port in the Southeast Asia that had been providing LNG bunkering services for two to three years still needed to hire experienced foreign crew members for the provision of services.

4. Mr FONG Chi-fai (River Trade Cargo Operations) wished to know when vessels fueled by LNG were allowed to enter Hong Kong, whether bunkering services and bunkering locations would be arranged for them simultaneously. The Chairman said that vessels fueled by LNG were at present allowed to enter and leave Hong Kong, including ocean-going vessels and river trade vessels. The Chairman also added that the MD was considering the locations of alternative fuel bunkering.
5. Mr ZHAO Qi-jing, Steven (Marine Insurance Industry) wished to know whether the vessel carbon emission indicators required by the International Maritime Organization at present would apply to local vessels. The Chairman said that Hong Kong strove to actualise its carbon-neutral goal before 2050 despite the fact that the indicators required by the Organization aimed at ocean-going vessels. Ergo, the government had all along encouraged local vessels to reduce their operational carbon emissions.
6. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry Vessels' Operations) said there were companies in the market providing fuels alternative to hydrogen which were allegedly conducive to the reduction of emissions without affecting vessel operation. The Chairman said the legislative amendment proposed in the paper at present was to accept the use of alternative fuels in the waters of Hong Kong which would include any forms of alternative fuels.
7. Mr WONG Chi-ming (Seafarers' Training) asked whether vessel operation companies would be responsible for conducting relevant training as the Maritime Training Institute could not provide relevant training at present. The Chairman said according to the reference made to the practices of other regions, relevant training on the use of gaseous fuels would last for about one week given that the trainee was a holder of Certificate of Competency for general navigation. Mr

LAM Kong-hei, Yale David (Senior Surveyor of Ships/Local Vessels Safety, MD) supplemented that at present the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or Other Low-Flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code) required every crew member to be a holder of a certificate for the basic use of gaseous fuels. In addition to that, vessel companies were also required to provide inhouse on-the-job training for their staff and adopt safety management systems for their vessels.

8. The Chairman said relevant legislative amendment was expected to be completed at the end of 2024.
9. After discussion, members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 18/2023.

III. Any Other Business

1. Mr WAN Chi-kwong (Ferry Vessels' Operations) hoped that both the English and Chinese versions of Marine Department Notices (MDN) could be issued at the same time to facilitate the industry. He also remarked that attention should be paid to the wordings in the light of the actual situation when the VTC issued safety messages, e.g. the use of the word "reported" should take into account the particular point in time of the occurrence of incident.
2. The LVAC Paper No. 17/2023 – “Introducing e-certificates for local vessels” had been issued on 19 December 2023 for members’ comment and no comments were received from members before the deadline. Members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 17/2023.
3. Mr WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy (Launch and Excursion Vessels' Operations) proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman which was passed by members present at the meeting.

IV. Adjournment of Meeting

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

[Post-meeting note: The LVAC Paper No. 15/2023 “Amendments to Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) Regulation (Cap. 413O)” had been issued on 13 December 2023 for members’ comment and no comments was received from members before the deadline. Members agreed to endorse the LVAC Paper No. 15/2023.]

Marine Department

Committee Unit

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