

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Closure of Waters in Victoria Harbour for the Opening Ceremony of the 2009 East Asian Games

Purpose

This paper seeks members' endorsement on the proposed closure of the central part of Victoria Harbour in the evening of 5 December 2009 for the Opening Ceremony of the 2009 East Asian Games.

Background

2. The Opening Ceremony of the East Asian Games (EAG) will be held on the evening of 5 December 2009 at the waterfront off the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, with Victoria Harbour as the backdrop. The ceremony will include a boat parade, cultural performances, the lighting of a cauldron; and a fireworks display towards the end of the ceremony.

3. The ceremony will start at 2000 hours and finish at 2130 hours. About 60 vessels will participate, including some 55 vessels in the boat parade with about 2,700 athletes on board and 3 anchored barges serving as stages for the cultural performances by 450 performers. It is anticipated that some 300 spectator vessels will be attracted to view the show.

4. Inner harbour ferry services and outlying islands services will be suspended from 1930 and 2000 hours respectively. The Islands District Council and the Tsuen Wan District Council will be consulted separately on the arrangements for ferry services in the harbour during the Opening Ceremony.

5. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has worked out proposals with the Hong Kong Police Force and Transport Department for road closure and special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon. The Police will carry out crowd control and traffic management ashore. The Marine Department will regulate marine traffic at scene together with the marine police.

Proposal

6. To ensure safety and facilitate control at scene, it is proposed to close the central part of the Victoria Harbour in two stages by a notice in the Gazette in accordance with section 16B of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313 and section 26 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548. The arrangements are as follows:

(a) **Stage One** (for positioning the firing barges for fireworks display)

- i) Closed Area (1), - encompassing the firing barges for the fireworks display will be formed by four straight lines joining the following positions (1) to (4) (WGS 84 Datum):

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
(1)	22° 17.366'N	114° 09.960'E
(2)	22° 17.366'N	114° 10.574'E
(3)	22° 17.192'N	114° 10.574'E
(4)	22° 17.192'N	114° 09.960'E

- ii) The Closed Area will be in force between 1400 hours and 2300 hours on 5 December 2009.

(b) **Stage Two** (for the boat parade and cultural performances)

- i) Closed Area (2) – encompassing the area where the boat parade, cultural performances and the fireworks display will take place will be formed by a straight line joining the southern extremity of the MTR Hung Hom Freight Terminal Pier and the breakwater at Kellett Island adjoining the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club as the eastern limit of the Closed Area; and
- ii) the western limit of the Closed Area will be formed by a straight line joining the southwestern extremity of the Ocean Terminal and the northeastern extremity of the Central Government Pier; and
- iii) The Closed Area will be in force between 1900 hours to 2215 hours on 5 December 2009.

7. No vessels, other than excepted vessels, will be allowed to enter or remain within the Closed Areas. The excepted vessels are Government launches, vessels directly involved in the opening ceremony, and vessels that have special permission from the Director of Marine.

8. A plan showing the proposed Closed Areas is attached to this Paper.

Recommendation

9. The proposal in paragraphs 6 above is recommended for members' endorsement.

Presentation

10. This paper is circulated for members' endorsement.

Port Control Division

Marine Department

July 2009



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NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION