

## PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ref. : HQ/COM 928/29 (19)

### Minutes of Special Meeting

Date : 9 April 2009 (Thursday)  
Place : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building  
Time : 10:00 a.m.

#### Present

Chairman: Mr. SIN Tak-cheung	Deputy Director of Marine (Acting)
Member: Mr. Peter YIM	Representing HK Liner Shipping Association
Mr. John ELLIOT	Representing Container Terminal Operators
Mr. Edward CHIU	Representing Dry Bulk Cargo Operators
Mr. TO Wing-sing	Representing Break Bulk Cargo Operators
Mr. CHENG Siu-lun	Representing Oil Terminal Operators
Mr. NG Ming-fai	Representing Dockyard Industry
Mr. WU Ka-shun	Representing Tug Operators
<i>(on behalf of Mr. Phileas FONG)</i>	
Mr. TSANG Man-ching	Master Mariner
Mr. LAM Wing-shing	Master Mariner
<i>(also on behalf of Capt. CHAN Lok-ching of HK Shipowners Association)</i>	
Capt. YU Chi-leung	Representing HK Pilots Association (HKPA)
<i>(on behalf of Capt. CHEN Yu-chi)</i>	
Mr. Raymond CHUNG	GM/VTS, Marine Department
Secretary: Mr. John LEUNG	ADS/C&G, Marine Department

#### In Attendance

Mr. Terence SIT	HK General Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Roger TUPPER	Director of Marine
Mr. LAI Chi-tung	SMO/VTC, Marine Department
Mr. Andrew NG	MO/Pilotage, Marine Department

#### Absent with Apologies

Capt. David WATKINS	Master Mariner
Mr. SIU Wai-lim	Representing HK Pilots Association
Mr. TONG Ho-lok	S(N)Exam, Marine Department

## OPENING REMARKS

1. Mr. Roger TUPPER reminded the meeting that for any proposed changes to the berthing guidelines, it should be discussed by the Pilotage Advisory Committee Working Group (PACWG) before recommendations were made to PAC for making the decision. Due to the urgency of the matter, the paper to be discussed at this meeting had not gone through the PAC WG, and members should be aware of this special arrangement and consider all the issues carefully.

(Mr. TUPPER left the meeting at this juncture.)

2. The Chairman welcomed all present. He extended particular welcome to Capt. LAM Wing-shing who was newly appointed as a PAC member in the capacity of a master mariner, and Mr. WU Ka-shun and Capt. YU Chi-leung who were attending the meeting on behalf of other members.
3. The Chairman told the meeting that Capt. David Watkins, Mr. SIU Wai-lim and Mr. TONG Ho-lok were not able to attend the meeting and had sent their apologies for absence.
4. The Chairman said that this special meeting was called to discuss the proposed new berthing guideline for large cruise ships transiting Victoria Harbour as it was anticipated that requests from large cruise ships to transit Victoria Harbour would continue to increase, and there was a need to thoroughly discuss the matter as soon as possible.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

5. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any amendments.

### **II. Presentation of Paper**

#### *PAC Paper No. 3/2009 – “Movement of Large Cruise Ships Transiting Harbour”*

6. Mr. Andrew NG briefed members on the proposed new berthing guideline for large cruise ships transiting Victoria Harbour, and invited comments from members. Mr. TSANG Man-ching said that he supported the proposal in principle, but asked if buoy B26 would be removed for large cruise ships of LOA greater than 270m. Mr. Raymond CHUNG replied that B26 would be kept vacant but not removed, so that more sea room would be provided to facilitate large cruise ships turning in the Northern Fairway. Mr. WU Ka-shun asked if only the red buoy would be removed for large cruise ships of LOA greater than 290m. Mr. CHUNG replied that two buoys, namely Northern 1 and Northern 2 in the Northern Fairway would be temporarily removed for large cruise ships turning into the Northern Fairway and Central Fairway. Northern 2 buoy was red and off the Stonecutters Island, while Northern 1 buoy was green and located to the northwest of the Macau Ferry Terminal.
7. Capt. YU Chi-leung said that the HKPA would like to propose the following amendments to the draft berthing guidelines at Annex IV of the paper: -
  - i. As the guideline only applied to ships of LOA less than or equal to 345m, General Remarks item (6) should be deleted to avoid giving the wrong impression that ships of LOA greater than 345m were also included;

- ii. The sentence “1 patrol boat to clear the passage to Hung Hom” should be added to the Remarks under item 020.
8. Mr. John ELLIOT said that General Remarks item (6) appeared to be a general statement. The Chairman said that it was the normal practice for the pilots to carry out simulations and trials for the ships having LOA exceeding those specified in the berthing guidelines.
9. Mr. Terence SIT asked who would be paying for the costs of the removal of the buoy and how long the buoy would be removed for. The Chairman replied that the ship owners or their agents would be paying for the costs of the removal. Mr. Raymond CHUNG added that the buoy would be removed for about one day. In order to avoid carrying out the works in the dark, the buoy would be removed in the afternoon prior to the transit and be re-instated in the next day. Mr. John ELLIOT asked if a patrol boat would always be used. The Chairman replied that a patrol boat would be used as and when necessary. Members had no other comments on the paper. The Chairman concluded that the paper including the proposed amendments by the HKPA in para. 7 above was endorsed unanimously.

### **III. Any Other Business**

10. There was no other business raised by members.

### **IV. Date of Next Meeting**

11. The meeting ended at 10:35 p.m. The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.