

# PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## **Minutes of the 28th Committee Meeting held in Conference Room 1405-06, 14/F, Harbour Building on 30 November 2001 at 2:15 p.m.**

### Present

Chairman:	Mr. TSANG Man-ching	Deputy Director of Marine
Member:	Ms. Una CHAN Yau-ying	Representing Marine Insurance Industry
	Dr. CHENG Jui-shan	Representing Naval Architects
	Mr. CHOI Kim-lui	Representing Launch & Excursion Vessels' Operators
	Mr. HO Chi-shing	Representing Ferry Vessels' Operators
	Mr. HUNG Bing	Representing Local Seafarers' Association
	Mr. KEUNG Yin-man	Representing Fishing Industry
	Dr. Alan LAU Kwok-lam	Representing Pleasure Boating Community
	Mr. LING Wai-po	Representing Commissioner of Police
	Mr. Vitus SZETO Kin	Representing Ship Building & Repairing Industry
	Mr. Tony YEUNG Pui-keung	Representing Seafarers' Training Institutes
	Mr. NG Kin-man	Representing Marine Department
	Mr. Michael LEE	Representing Marine Department
Secretary:	Mr. Victor NG Chi-chi	Asst. Departmental Secretary/Marine Department

### In Attendance

Mr. CHEUNG Yau-kwong	Marine Excursion Association Ltd
Mr. Paul CHENG	Cargo Vessels' Operators
Mr. FONG Chi-fai	River Trade Cargo Operators
Mr. LEUNG Wai-ying	HK Fishermen's Association
Mr. CHEUK Fan-lun	Marine Department
Mr. CHAN Kwong-chun	Ditto
Mr. LEE Kwok-ping	Ditto
Mr. Maurice PAU	Ditto
Mr. WONG Wing-hung	Ditto
Mr. MAK Kwok-choi	Ditto

### Presentation of Papers

No. 7/2001:	Mr. J. S. Park	Chief Engineer/Hyundai-CCECC Joint Venture
No. 8/2001:	Dr. Ivan CHAN	Fisheries Officer/Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department
No. 10/2001:	Miss CHU Hing-yin	Chief Town Planner/ Planning Department
	Mr. Joseph MA	Director/LD Asia
No. 11/2001:	Mr. Maurice PAU	Sr. Statistician/ Marine Department
No. 12/2001:	Mr. LEE Kwok-ping	SS/LVR, MD

### Absent with Apologies

Mr. HE Wei-ping (represented by Mr. FONG Chi-fai)	Representing River Trade Cargo Operators
Mr. James SHUEN Wai (represented by Mr. Paul CHENG)	Representing Cargo Vessels' Operators
Mr. R. W. Pickup	Representing Ship Survey Companies

## **I INTRODUCTION**

- M322 1. The Chairman welcomed all members especially Mr. LING Wai-po, Chief Inspector of Police who attended this meeting for the first time.

## **II CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- M323 2. Only the following proposed amendment was received from Mr. CHOI Kim-lui for line 6, Para. 13 of English version of minutes (line 4, Para. 13 of Chinese version): -  
“Mr. CHOI Kim-lui indicated that he had serious worries about the fast moving speed of fishing sampans, especially when there was no restriction to its operation in Victoria Harbour and he commented that such sampans should not be used for carriage of passengers.....”

No other amendments were received and the minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

## **III Presentation of the Digital Tidal Stream Atlas (DTSA) by staff of Hydrographic Office**

- M324 3. Mr. MAK Kwok-choi briefed members of the background of the system and performed a live demonstration. The DTSA was jointly developed by the Civil Engineering Department and Marine Department and it covered tidal analysis on 4,200 locations in Hong Kong waters. The Department would upload 7 days of tidal information in advance on its web site for the use of general public. A CD-ROM containing the tidal stream information of 2002 would also be available for sale in early December.
4. Members found the DTSA very useful. In response to members' enquiry, Mr. MAK told members that the CD-ROM was available in English version only. However, Chinese version might also be available next year.

## **IV PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

### ***Paper No.7/2001 “Proposed Dredging Plan for the Rambler Channel & the Northern Fairway — Container Terminal 9 Development”***

- M325 5. Mr. J. S. PARK of Hyundai-CCECC Joint Venture, the main contractor of CT9 Development Project, gave a brief account of the Project with particular emphasis on the dredging of the Rambler Channel and Northern Fairway. As the marine traffic in Rambler Channel was very busy, Trailing Suction Hopper Dredgers (TSHD) would be used where possible in order to minimize traffic disruption. In the northern part of the Rambler Channel, stationary grab dredger would be used because of the submarine outfall there. He reassured members that care would be taken to cause as least inconvenience as possible to the channel users. Mr. CHOI Kim-lui hoped that the Rambler Channel would not be closed as it was heavily used by many kinds of vessels especially the tugs. Regarding this point, Mr. CHAN Kwong-chun told members that the area next to the Cheung Tsing Bridge would be affected most by the dredging works. Therefore, dredging works would be carried out in grids of 150 m x 150 m one by one. The Department would liaise with the contractor closely and keep all parties informed of the traffic arrangement.

### ***Paper No. 8/2001 “Proposed Marine Parks at Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands”***

- M326 6. Dr. Ivan CHAN of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) introduced the Paper. With a view to conserving the natural environment and protecting the Chinese White Dolphins, Finless Porpoises and other species, it was proposed to designate two marine parks at Southwest Lantau (657 ha) and Soko Islands (1290 ha). The proposed marine parks would be managed in a similar manner as other existing marine parks, ie., no fishing, no anchoring and subject to a speed limit

of 10 knots. It was intended to allow recreational fishing in the non-core area of the Soko Islands Marine Park. Bona fide fishermen and local villagers would be issued with fishing permits allowing them to continue with their fishing activities.

7. While he had no objection to protecting endangered species, Mr. KEUNG Yin-man commented that the livelihood of fisherman should also be taken into consideration. He hoped that AFCD could offer some assistance to the fisherman and set up the marine parks in phases. Regarding Mr. LEUNG Wai-ying's point about the issue of illegal fishing of mainland vessels, Dr. Ivan CHAN said that AFCD would step up control measures. Mr. CHOI Kim-lui asked if some sort of designated anchorage area could be set up at the Southwest Lantau Marine Park, say for the use of divers. Dr. CHAN replied that the water there was not very clear and hence not very suitable for diving. For the time being, AFCD had no plan to designate any anchorage area within the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park. Nevertheless, AFCD would take this issue into consideration should such need arise in the future. The Chairman requested AFCD to look into the points raised by members of the Committee.

***Paper No. 9/2001 "Central Reclamation Phase III"***

- M327 8. The Chairman told members that because of some latest development, some of the information in the Paper had been overtaken by events and so it would not be discussed in the meeting.

***Paper No. 10/2001 "The Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour — First Stage Public Consultation"***

- M328 9. Miss CHU Hing-yin of Planning Department informed members that the main objective of this consultancy study was to establish a coherent and robust planning framework for optimizing the development potential within Aberdeen Harbour, with particular focus on tourism, recreation and associated activities. Mr. Joseph Ma, consultant of Planning Department then took over and briefed members of the findings of the consultancy study. In view of the unique history of Aberdeen Harbour, it was proposed to adopt the Fishing Port Theme and the Fisherman's Wharf Development concept to guide the selection and design of tourism and recreation products for the harbour. Based on the above development concept, it was proposed to provide five major tourism nodes in the Harbour, with provision of facilities like waterfront promenades, dining, retail and entertainment facilities, floating market, harbour taxi etc. Among the three proposed conceptual development option, the Conceptual Development Option 3, which had a development level between the "Do-minimum Option" and the "Do-maximum" Option, was recommended as it would promote tourism and create employment, whilst keeping down the impacts on environment, infrastructure and transport network.

10.

Members expressed concern over the proposed development as the existing Aberdeen Harbour was already very congested, especially during the period of fishing moratorium. Other comments of members were summarized below:-

- a) The water taxi routes might overlap with existing ferry routes. On the other hand, a member suggested to include a water taxi route between Aberdeen and Cheung Chau;
- b) A member suggested to relocate the existing breakwaters at the southern end of Aberdeen Harbour further to the southeast so as to increase the area of sheltered water;
- c) A member suggested to add a cultural center at the proposed Harbour Square;
- d) A member proposed to develop the Magazine Island as a whole into a landmark. Cable car connection between the Island and other places was also proposed; and
- e) A member proposed to facilitate visitors buying fish at the live fish market.

11. Miss CHU reiterated that the development proposals aimed to sustain/enhance the existing fishing related activities in the Aberdeen Harbour. Subject to views of the public on this first stage consultation, the consultant would refine the proposals and carry out more in-depth technical assessments. Thereafter the public would be consulted again.

***Paper No. 11/2001 “Assessment of Typhoon Shelter Space Requirements”***

- M329
12. Mr. Maurice PAU of MD presented the Paper. Mr. PAU said that the Department would carry out an assessment of typhoon shelter space requirements every year. The present forecast had taken into consideration various statistics, eg., GDP growth, population projection and PMB’s Port Cargo Forecasts and similar assumptions were made as in the last assessment. When compared to the last year’s forecast, both the supply side and demand side of this year’s forecast had been revised slightly downwards. If a temporary mismatch between supply and demand not exceeding 10% of the total demand was considered acceptable as in the last assessment, an additional typhoon shelter would need to be available by 2016 (same as the conclusion of the last assessment). Planning and related works for a new typhoon shelter would be commenced by 2009, based on a trigger system proposed last year, since a 7-year lead time was required.
  13. Mr. HO Chi-shing expressed concern about use of typhoon shelter by mainland vessels. Regarding this point, the Chairman said that the problem ought not be very serious as the waterways of mainland rivers were even better protected from typhoons. In response to another point raised by Mr. HO, the Chairman said that it was very difficult to confirm if a vessel had ceased active operation and remained stationary inside a typhoon shelter. Nevertheless, action would be taken by the Department if the vessel obstructed passage of other vessels or if it posed safety problems. In fact, there was a designated area in Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter for use of laid-up vessels.
  14. With regard to Mr. CHOI Kim-lui’s enquiries, Mr. Maurice PAU clarified that the supply and demand of typhoon shelter/sheltered space for pleasure vessels and non-pleasure vessels were assessed separately. For pleasure vessels, it was expected that there would be a surplus in supply of sheltered space over the entire forecasting horizon and so this Paper mainly focused on requirements of non-pleasure vessels. Mr. PAU further told members that the management of River Trade Terminal would normally allow vessels happened to be working within the basin to stay there during passage of typhoons. Regarding the cancellation of typhoon shelter provision in Tseung Kwan O Area 131, a new typhoon shelter near the ex-Kai Tak runway would be provided and the loss of sheltered space as a result of Wan Chai Development Project Phase II would be re-provided by this site. Mr. CHOI wished that the Department could confirm this point. After some more discussion, the Paper was endorsed.

(Post-meeting note: It was confirmed that the loss of typhoon shelter space as a result of Wan Chai Development Project Phase II would be re-provided in the new site near the ex-Kai Tak runway.)

***Paper No. 12/2001 “Proposal for a New Tonnage Measurement System for Local Vessels”***

- M330
15. Mr. KEE Kwok-ping of MD introduced the Paper. Currently the tonnages of local vessels were measured by various methods depending on their vessel types. A change was considered necessary for a number of reasons as stated in para. 3 of the Paper. It was proposed that all new vessels having length of 24 m and above (except the

primitive vessels) were to be measured by ITM Method while others were to be measured by a “Simplified Method” which was derived from the ITM Method. Charges would be levied for tonnage measurement of new vessels. An owner of an existing vessel might also request for re-measurement of tonnage by paying a fee to MD. The proposed methods of tonnage measurement would be included in the Code of Practice-Safety Standards for Class I, II, and III Vessels.

16. Mr. CHOI Kim-lui supported the proposal but wished that the fee charged could be kept to a minimum. Regarding this point, Mr. LEE Kwok-ping said that the fee charged would depend on the number of working hours required and the Department would endeavour to keep down the working hours as far as possible. Mr. SZETO Kin enquired about the applicability of the proposal to double hull vessels. Mr. LEE Kwok-ping replied that a hull form factor specifically for the hull of each type of vessels would be used in the “Simplified Method” and for catamarans the total underdeck volume would be the sum of the two individual hull volume.
17. With regard to the date of implementation, Mr. LEE Kwok-ping said that the proposal was intended to come into effect in conjunction with the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance. Mr. Michael LEE supplemented that consideration would be given to implementing the proposal by phases if so allowed by the legislation. Finally the Paper was endorsed by members.

#### **V. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### *Development of Legislation for Coastal Trade Vessels (M317)*

- M331 18. Mr. LEE Kwok-ping of MD reported that the draft safety standard had been sent to the technical sub-committee for consideration. The subject would then be discussed again in the third Experts Meeting with Beijing MSA early next year.

##### *Working Group to Study Registered Professional Engineer (Marine and Naval Architecture) (RPE(MNA)) as Authorized Surveyor (M318)*

- M332 19. Mr. Michael LEE reported that the Working Group had looked into the appointment and monitoring mechanism especially conflict of interest situations and the related disciplinary mechanism. Hopefully a complete report would be available in mid-2002.

#### **VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- M333 20. The Chairman thanked the Secretary, who would soon be posted out of the Department, for his past service with this Committee.

#### **VII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- M334 21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:45 pm. The next meeting would be held in March 2002.