

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee held on 31 October 1997 at 2:30p.m. in the District Board Committee Room Room 1416 at 14 Floor of Harbour Building

Present

S.Y. TSUI	Deputy Director of Marine	MD (Chairman)
K.T. LO	General Manager/Operations	MD
S. Hussain	General Manager/Local Vessels Safety	MD
KEUNG Yin-man	Chairman H.K. & Kowloon Floating Fishermen Welfare Promotion Association	
HUNG Bing	Chairman Small Craft Workers Union	
YANG Rixiang	Manager, Declaration Department Chu Kong Agency Co. Ltd.	
David C.S. HO	General Manager Hong Kong & Yaumatei Ferry Co. Ltd.	
HO Kwun-yin (for LEUNG Kuen-tung)	Harbour Transportation Workers General Union	
CHEUNG Ka-yuen (for Peter J.S. CHENG)	Peter Cheng Naval Architect & Marine Consultant Ltd.	
CHOI Kim-lui	Executive Director New Moonraker Motorboat Co. Ltd.	
James SHUEN	Executive Director Floata Group of Companies	

Vitus K. SZETO General Manager
A. Fai Engineers & Shiprepairers Ltd.

YU Kwok-hong CIP OPS Marine
Hong Kong Police Force

In Attendance

John Berry Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.

Alex TAM Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.

C.S. LAU Senior Marine Officer/Development (1) MD

K.M. NG Senior Marine Officer/Vessel Traffic
Centre (Administration) MD

K.P. LEE Senior Surveyor/Local Vessel Review MD

F.L. CHEUK Senior Marine Officer/Planning (1) MD (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies

Jack Haworth Manager
Seaman's Training Centre

Keith Choules Executive Director
HK Outward Bound School

B Hunt Group Regional Manager
Lloyds Register of Shipping

Elden YAU Marine Manager
HSBC Insurance Ltd.

INTRODUCTION

M206 The Chairman welcomed Mr. YANG Rixiang, Manager of Chu Kong Agency Co. Ltd. attending the PLVAC meeting for the first time. He also welcomed Mr. YAU Kwok-hong attending the meeting on behalf of HKPF and Mr. CHEUNG Ka-yuen on behalf of Dr. Peter CHENG for the first time. He introduced Mr. John Berry and Mr. Alex TAM who were attending the meeting for presentation of the feasibility study for Tseung Kwan O Port Development at Area 131.

I. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

M207 There were no request for amendment, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

II. PRESENTATION

Tseung Kwan O Port Development - Mid-stream Site at Area 131

M208 Mr. J. Berry presented the port development at Area 131, such as the background of the port development, the planning at TKO bay, the layouts of the mid-stream site (MSS), breakwater and the Government Mooring Buoys, and etc. A member asked and Mr. F.L. CHEUK replied that the developments of Stonecutter MSS and Area 131 MSS were separate matters, and Area 131 MSS would be tendered out to private operators. In regard of the traffic safety of the future ferries to TKO new town, the Chairman assured that it would be carefully considered if there would be ferry service required. A member asked and the Chairman replied that the planned moorings would be for ocean-going vessels regularised by booking system. A committee member showed his favour of the proposed MSS as the site was in calm water and would be preferred by vessels from Shan Tou and Fu Zhou. However, he expected that operation cost would be high due to high construction cost. Mr. J. Berry advised that the cargo throughput would justify the cost for the development, and the planned mooring could be placed in phase and the layout of the mooring would be flexible to adjust depending on actual demand. As no further comments were raised, the Chairman thanked Mr. John Berry and Mr. Alex TAM for their attendance and excused them from the rest of the meeting.

III. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- M209 (i) Extension of Compulsory Third Party Risks Insurance to All Locally Licensed Vessels (M196)
- Mr. C.S. LAU advised that the MIA had conducted a questionnaire survey to find out the response of its members on their willingness and premium required to provide Third Party Risks Insurance to locally licensed vessels. In general, the result was positive that their members were interested to provide the insurance. He further advised that the way forward was to set up appropriate insured and premium values. A member commented that the existing compulsory Third Party insured values for pleasure vessels and launches & ferries were outmoded, and the extension should be implemented as soon as possible. Another member commented that the values should be set at different levels for different types of vessels. In response to the members comments, the Chairman advised Mr. C.S LAU to lead an ad hoc working group to develop some proposals on the values and submitted them to this committee for consideration. Mr. David HO, Mr. KEUNG Yin-man, Mr. CHOI Kim-lui and Mr. HUNG Bing were interested to be the members of the working group . In regard of the extension to cover river trade vessels, the Chairman replied that the extension would be implemented gradually starting from the local licensed vessels first.
- M210 (ii) Reorganization of Marine Department (M198)
- Mr. K.T. LO informed that the inconvenience caused on the application of exemption permits for High Speed Craft was solved and overall feedbacks on the reorganization were good. A member requested and Mr. K.M. NG replied that those permits could be collected through VTC provided such request was made in advance. Another member appreciated that the patrolling service was significantly improved after the reorganization. It was agreed that this item should be deleted.

M211 (iii) Helping Business Study (M199)

The Chairman advised that there might have difficulties to implement some recommendations which would have implications on legislation amendments and computer installation according to the implementation timetable. He also draw the members attention that another Helping Business Study on the aspects of surveys and inspection of local vessels would soon be carried out by appointed Consultants. In this regard, Mr. K.T. LO invited members to give their supports on the Study by providing their comments and expectations on MD services when they were contacted by the Consultants. In response to the suggestion that more resource should be provided to speed up the issue of multi-clearance certificate for river trade vessels, Mr. K.T. LO replied that MD had planned to upgrade the existing computer system so as to reduce the processing time. Besides, the Chairman advised that a shroff office would be established at the 23rd floor of MD headquarters and the coming Study would consider how to issue a vessel's license shortly after the vessel's inspection was passed. Mr. K.T. LO also advised that starting from September 1997, if annual inspection of a local vessel was conducted within a month before the expiry of it's license, the renewed license period would be counted from the license's expiry date instead of the date of the inspection.

Note : Mr. HUNG Bing and Mr. HO KWUN-yin left at 1535.

M212 (iv) Review of Inspection Standard (M204)

Mr. K.P. LEE reported that the concerned requirements were discussed in the Technical Sub-committee. After the discussion, the Sub-committee members had agreed that those requirements were considered reasonable except the stipulated periods for machinery inspection would further be reviewed. The Chairman reiterated that MD would like to discuss with the shipping industry on the inspection standards before the Codes for Standards were finalized. A member welcomed such open attitude and advised that it was necessary to set up a clear Codes for Standards for vessels operators to follow. As the matters would be considered in the Technical Sub-committee, it was agreed that this item should be deleted.

M213 (v) Education Seminars on Marine Traffic Safety (M176)

Mr. K.M. NG advised that MD would arrange three seminars to be held in November 97, January and March 98, and the arrangements were disseminated in Marine Department Notice No. 179/97. So far, he had received about 30 applications for attendance. He requested members to recommend the seminars to their individual field operators and agreed that additional seminars would be arranged if required. As some river trade operators would have difficulties to attend the seminars in Hong Kong, MD had arranged to provide similar seminars in Zhu Hai and Zhong Shan. In response to the members suggestion, Mr. K.M. NG agreed to consider video recording the process of the coming seminars to see its appropriateness for conveying the safety message to interested parties.

IV. NEW ITEMS

M214 (i) Committee Paper No. 5/97 - "Declaration of Interests by Members of the PLVAC"

This paper was presented by Mr F L CHEUK who drew members attention that the main purpose of the declaration is to maintain public confidence in the integrity of members as well as in the impartiality of their advice rendered to this committee. After some clarifications on how to declare members' interest, members endorsed the declaration system which would be effected on 2 January 1998 and agreed to return his/her duly completed Register of Interests to the Secretary within 2 months from the effective date.

M215 (ii) Committee Paper No. 6/97 - "Preparation of Safety Code for Class III and IV Vessels"

Mr. K.P. LEE briefed members of the changes on vessel classification, principles on determination of safety standards, categorization of vessels and highlights of proposed safety standards for future Class III and Class IV non-passenger carrying vessels. He advised that a draft safety code was being studied by the Technical Sub-committee and it would soon be submitted to this committee for endorsement.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- M216 A member raised and Mr. K.P. LEE replied that the implementation of combined coxswain and engineer operation for vessel's length less than 24 metres and engine power less than 750 KW would be effected after the enactment of a new Local Vessel Ordinance. For helping business purpose, the Chairman agreed to explore whether such reviewed standard could be practised before new legislation was enacted.

VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- M217 The Chairman thanked members for attending. They would be advised of the date of the next meeting in due course.

The meeting closed at 1633 hours.