

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Feasibility Study on Establishing an Electronic Business System
for Handling Port Formality Documents and Related Services**

Summary of Study Results

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide members with summary results of the study and the recommendations for establishing an Electronic Business System (EBS) for handling port formality documents and related services.

Background

2. To cope with the emerging e-commerce environment in the 21st century the Marine Department Consultative Committee on Electronic Data Interchange recommended in 2000 to conduct a Feasibility Study on implementing an EBS for handling port formality documents. The study was started in July 2001 and completed in November 2002.

Current Situation and Problems

3. At present, shipping masters and/or their agents are required to submit port formality documents and applications to Marine Department (MD), Immigration Department (ImmD) and Department of Health (DH). The majority of documents are submitted either in person or by fax/telex. Since the existing system is primarily a paper-based system, there exist the usual problems inherited from the manual paper-based system for both the service providing departments and the shipping industry.

Summary Results

4. The result of the study confirms that it is technically feasible and cost justified for implementing the proposed EBS when the total potential benefits accrued to the Marine Department and the shipping industry are taken into account. The

provision of an electronic submission channel by means of an Internet-based platform will enable port users to enjoy one-stop convenience for port formalities and shipping related transactions.

Conclusion

5. The proposed EBS is a cost effective solution for handling port formality documents and the implementation of this system will enhance the operational efficiency and save the operating costs to the service providing departments and the shipping industry.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the EBS will be implemented in two phases to allow maximum flexibility to integrate with future e-Government initiatives. Phase 1 will set up the infrastructure and provide e-submission which will be commenced in January 2003 and take 12 months to complete. It will provide a round the clock (7 x 24) electronic submission channel by means of an Internet-based platform, with connection to MD backend systems, for MD port formalities services and other shipping related transactions for the shipping community. This could save the time and effort in preparing paper submission.

7. Depends on the take-up rate of phase 1, phase 2 will be implemented in 2005 with additional features such as one-stop lodgment to enable the submission of port formality documents of ImmD and DH through EBS, flexible e-printing of permits at any time any where and online enquiry of application and account payment status.

Presentation

8. In collaboration with Mr. C.T. Lai, Senior Marine Officer/Information System Coordination Section of the Marine Department, this paper will be presented by the Consultant of feasibility study on EBS, Mr. Daniel Lam of the Electronic Data Systems (EDS) HK.

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Information System Coordination Section
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