

Minutes of POC Special Meeting

Date: 22 January 2009 (Thursday)

Time: 1430 hours

Venue: Rm A, 24/F, MD Headquarters

Present		Chairman
	Mr. Roger TUPPER	
	Mr. Tony LAI	Dockyard and Harbour Tug Operators
	Mr. S. C. MO (On behalf of Mr. Albert WONG)	HK Cargo-Vessel Trader Association
	Mr. Timothy NGAN	HK Container Terminal Operators Association
	Mr. Raymond CHENG	HK General Chamber of Commerce
	Mr. Peter NG	HK Liner Shipping Association
	Mr. Y. C. CHEN (On behalf of Mr. S. H. PAU)	HK Pilots Association
	Mr. Sunny HO	HK Shippers' Council
	Mr. M. K. CHAN (On behalf of Ms. Janice TSE)	Transport and Housing Bureau
	Mr. T. C. SIN	Marine Department
	Mr. Frankie LAM	Secretary
	Presenter of POC Paper No. 3/09 :	
	Mr. K. C. CHAN	Marine Department

Apologies	Mr. C.M. KU	Oil Industry Representative Committee
	Mr. T. K. CHEUNG	Local Ferry Operators
	Mr. W. C. LI	Wharf and Godown Operators
	Mr. L. C. CHAN	HK Ship Owners Association
	Mr. S. K. LAM	Civil Engineering and Development Department

1. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He explained the reason to call for such Special Meeting further to the 55th POC Meeting being held on 7.1.2009 because POC Paper No. 3/09-Reduction in Port Fees had just been approved by the relevant policy bureau and had to be discussed in a meeting before being put forward to the Legislative Council.

2. POC Paper No. 3/09 Reduction in Port Fees

2.1 Mr. K.C. CHAN (Marine Department) (MD) presented the paper. Mr. CHAN briefed Members on the purpose, background and proposal to reduce the fees currently charged on ocean going vessels and vessels plying within the river trade limits. He said that it had been Government's policy that fees and charges were in general set at a level sufficient to recover the full cost for providing the services. MD reviewed the marine-related fees and charges from time to time with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of Hong Kong port and the maritime industry. The latest review indicated there was room to

reduce the following fees and charges:

- (i) port clearance permit fee for a high speed passenger craft plying exclusively within the river trade limits / an ocean going vessel;
- (ii) arrival clearance fee for a vessel plying within the river trade limits; and
- (iii) port clearance fee for a vessel plying within the river trade limits.

He recommended the proposal for Members endorsement.

2.2 All Members unanimously supported the proposal. **Mr. Sunny HO** (HK Shippers' Council) (HKSC) and **Mr. Peter NG** (HK Liner Shipping Association) (HKLSA) appreciated the fee reduction for smoothing the pressure on the marine industry under the world-wide economic downturn on behalf of their associations. **Mr. NG** further enquired when the fee reduction would be effective and would there be any reduction on other areas/fees. **The Chairman** asked for the date of legislation of the proposal. **Mr. M. K. CHAN** (Transport and Housing Bureau) (THB) responded that he would check and revert to the Meeting. **The Chairman** further advised that MD reviewed the costs and revenue of the fees and services provided for all services under the full cost recovery principle on an annual basis.

[Post-meeting notes: Mr. M.K. CHAN (THB) later advised that the proposal was being processed and the schedule of legislation would be informed in due course.]

2.3 **The Chairman** added that all absentees had supported the proposal in

writing and declared that the Meeting endorsed the proposal.

3. Any Other Business

3.1 **Mr. Peter NG** (HKSLA) asked whether the booking and charging procedures for Government Mooring Buoys (GMB) would be reviewed or not. **Mr. T. C. SIN** said that the issue was discussed with the industry before. The present arrangement for buoy booking was agreed a few years ago, which had struck the balance of ensuring that a vessel could secure a mooring before arrival while assuring Government revenue for reservation of the mooring. **The Chairman** added that the booking of GMBs 48 hours ahead of the vessel's arrival would allow flexibility for the ship operator.

3.2 **Mr. Sunny HO** (HKSC) raised that the mid stream operators were having a hard time and whether any relevant fees could be reduced. **The Chairman** replied that the representatives of the mid stream operators had made a request for a reduction in fees and charges to the Secretary for Transport and Housing and this request was under consideration.

4. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 1500 hours.

Confirmed this 19th day of June 2009

Chairman

Secretary