

Minutes of the 70th Port Operations Committee Meeting

26 January 2024 (Friday)

10:00 a.m.

Room A, 24/F, MD Headquarters

Present

Mr. S.F. WONG	Director of Marine (Ag.), Chair
Mr. H.Y. YIM	Hong Kong Cargo Vessel Traders' Association (HKCVTA)
Mr. River, K.H. FORK	HK Liner Shipping Association (HKLSA)
Mr. W.M. LEUNG	HK Container Terminal Operators Association (HKCTOA)
Mr. Eddie Y.F. HO	Oil Industry Representative Committee (OIRC)
Mr. Ron, W.L. CHAN	HK Shippers' Council (HKSC)
Mr. Jacky, J. JIAO	HK Shipowners Association (HKSOA)
Mr. K.F. CHAN	Wallem Group (WG)
Mr. Eddie C.K. WAN	China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd. (CHEC)
Mr. Bruce, K.W. LEE	HK Pilots Association (HKPA)
Mr. Simon, D.L. CHENG	Institute of Seatransport (IS)
Mr. C.M. WONG	Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI)
Dr. D. YANG	HK Polytechnic University (HKPU)
Mr. Anthony Y.H. MAN	Dockyard & Harbour Tug Operators (DHTO)

Mr. Raymond W.M. YUEN	Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP	Deputy Secretary, Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB); Commissioner for Maritime and Port Development:
Mr. Cliff, C.F. CHUNG	Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB)
Mr. C.T. LAI	Marine Department (MD)
Mr. Rico, P.F. CHAN	Secretariat

In Attendance

Mr. Q. SHI	MD
Mr. Figo CHING	Notes-taker, MD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. T.K. CHEUNG	HK & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association
Mr. Raymond, W.K. LAM	HK General Chamber of Commerce's Shipping & Transport Committee

1. Opening

- 1.1 **The Chair** welcomed all to the 70th meeting of the Port Operations Committee (POC).

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 As no comments had been received, the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 May 2018 were confirmed without amendments.

3. Matters Arising from the 69th Meeting

3.1 POC Paper No. 2/2017

Establishment of Traffic Separation Schemes and Pilot Boarding Stations in Mirs Bay

3.1.1 **Mr. Rico, P.F. CHAN** (MD) updated that the three pilot stations located off Ping Chau, Crooked Island, and Shek Ngau Chau in Mirs Bay have come into operation since 1 January, 2020 and no Traffic Separation Scheme has been established in the area. Further information regarding the pilot stations can be found in Marine Department Notice (MDN) No.187/2019.

3.2 POC Paper No. 2/2018

Installation of Boundary Buoys for the Proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP)

3.2.1 **Mr. Rico, P.F. CHAN** (MD) said that the SWLMP Buoys have been installed since March 2020. Further information regarding the SWLMP Buoys can be found in MDN No. 47/2020.

3.3 POC Paper No. 4/2018

Revision in Port Dues and Fees

3.3.1 **The Chair** reported that after taking into account various factors including the results of consultation with the trade and the prevailing economic environment, it was decided not to proceed with the proposed fee revisions at that time. **Mr. River, K.H. FORK** (HKLSA) enquired if the port dues and fees will be adjusted in the coming years. **The Chair** replied that the Government noted the trade's views about the port dues and fees. Nevertheless, the Government would not commit at this moment that port dues and fees would not be adjusted in future.

4. New Items

4.1 Briefing on the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy (Action Plan)

- 4.1.1 **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** (Commissioner for Maritime and Port Development, **TLB**) briefed Members on the details of the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy (the Action Plan). **Dr. D. YANG** (HKPU) said that he looked forward to the implementation of specific measures following the promulgation of the Action Plan. He said that there was room to enhance the education and research on maritime and port development, and HKPU would stand ready to support such efforts. **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** replied that universities might consider applying for research funding from the Research Grant Committee or relevant schemes under the Environment and Ecology Bureau for projects related to maritime and port development and green maritime fuel as appropriate. In case of need, she would be happy to consider providing support from the policy perspective to those applications for research funding.
- 4.1.2 **Mr. River, K.H. FORK** (HKLSA) suggested that the Government should review if there was any room for relaxing relevant licensing requirements of controlled goods to consolidate Hong Kong's position as a transshipment hub. He also suggested streamlining the application procedures for licences for transshipment of wasted paper. **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** replied that Hong Kong was a free port which did not levy any Customs tariff on imports and exports, while excise duties were levied only on four types of dutiable commodities. She suggested the trade to utilise the unique strengths of the Hong Kong Port and tell good stories of Hong Kong to the world. She said that TLB was in regular contact with relevant departments to explore related issues including enhancing the efficiency of customs clearance.
- 4.1.3 **Mr. K.F. CHAN** (Wallem Group) suggested relaxing the licensing requirement for the import of food replenishment and communication spare parts for cruise ships, the latter of which might involve strategic commodities. **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** said that it was the Government's policy to encourage free flow of goods. Where controls on imports and exports were required, they were imposed on health, safety and other reasons by relevant departments.

4.1.4 **Mr. Simon, D.L. CHENG** (IS) suggested that the Government should introduce more specific measures and incentives to attract more talents to Hong Kong to support the development of the maritime industry including the maritime arbitration sector. **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** said that the Government would continue to create a business-friendly environment and take a multi-pronged approach to generate service demand for local maritime services.

4.1.5 **Mr. Anthony Y.H. MAN** (DHTO), Mr. **Eddie C.K. WAN** (CHECL) and **Mr. River, K.H. FORK** (HKLSA) suggested that the Government could provide more information on the bunkering of green methanol and other green fuels. **Miss Amy, Y.M. CHAN, JP** replied that the Government would publish an action plan within 2024 with additional information such as timeline on the bunkering of alternative fuels.

4.2 **POC Paper No. 1/2024**

Use of Alternative Fuels in Hong Kong

4.2.1 **Mr. Q. SHI**(MD) gave a presentation on the proposed legislation amendments to facilitate the use of alternative fuels or providing alternative fuel bunkering services in Hong Kong. Members supported the proposal.

4.2.2 **The Chair** supplemented that the proposed legislation amendments were in line with Hong Kong's development of green maritime fuels. MD expected that the amendments will cater for all alternative fuels in the future, and the amendments would be implemented within 2024.

4.3 **POC Paper No. 2.2024**

Use of Electronic Certificates for Local Vessels

4.3.1 **Mr. Q. SHI**(MD) gave a brief presentation on the proposed legislation amendments to facilitate the use of electronic certificates (E-Certificates) for local vessels and operations in Hong Kong as well as visiting ocean-going vessels. Members supported the proposal.

4.3.2 **The Chair** emphasized that the utilization of E-Certificates could provide an alternative method for applying, issuing, and maintaining certificates for local vessels and operations. It was clarified that existing certificates in paper form would remain valid even after implementing E-Certificates.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Marine Traffic Condition in Tsim Sha Tsui East

5.1.1 **Mr. Eddie C.K. WAN** would like to bring attention to the MD regarding the safety concerns related to the nighttime harbour tour. He pointed out that there is only one landing steps site available in Tsim Sha Tsui East and a lot of harbour tour ships were gathering at the same place for loading or offloading passengers at the same time in every evening. There would be a potential marine traffic risk in that water area. **The Chair** thanked Mr. Wan's information and expressed that MD will follow up the issue.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.

7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on _____.