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本局檔號 OUR REF.:
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

24 July 2015

Clerk to the Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Jason Kong)

Dear Mr Kong,

Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up to Meeting on 29 June 2015
EC(2015-16)5

At the meeting of the Establishment Subcommittee held on 29 June 2015 on the item EC(2015-16)5, Members asked the Government to provide supplementary information on the respective duties and responsibilities of the policy divisions in Transport Branch of the Transport and Housing Bureau in overseeing the administration and development of the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (“MATF”), the details, progress and achievements of MATF, and how it can facilitate the implementation of new initiatives introduced for the aviation and maritime sectors in recent years. The required information is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Respective duties and responsibilities of Division 4 and 5 in respect of the administration and development of MATF

2. The \$100 million MATF is administered by the Transport Branch (“TB”) of Transport and Housing Bureau (“THB”). The Fund

was approved by the Finance Committee in January 2014 and commenced operation in April 2014. Division 4 and Division 5 under TB of THB oversee and support the operation of the Fund. Division 5 is responsible for the overall management of the MATF, which includes devising and updating application processing guidelines and operational procedures, making and controlling payments under the Fund, monitoring of the financial position, coordinating and preparing statistical and review reports, etc. Division 5 also oversees the promotional activities of the Fund as well as the implementation of training and manpower development initiatives relating to the maritime sector under the MATF. The work includes the establishment of the Tripartite Taskforce on Manpower Training under the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and provision of secretariat support to the Taskforce, liaison with relevant stakeholders on a regular basis to monitor feedback on manpower training and development and solicit industry support for initiatives under the MATF, and reviewing and refining specific maritime-related initiatives to meet demands. Division 4 of TB takes charge of the initiatives designed for the aviation sector by carrying out similar duties.

Details, progress and achievements of the MATF

3. Since its launch in April 2014, the MATF has been running a total of 11 different schemes/initiatives. The new initiatives introduced in April 2014 included the Maritime and Aviation Internship Network, the Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme, the Local Vessel Trade Training Incentive Scheme, and the Partial Tuition Refund Scheme for the Specialised Aircraft Maintenance Programme. In addition, the MATF supports a number of ongoing as well as implementing some new scholarship/sponsorship schemes with local universities to sponsor students to undertake post-graduate maritime-related programmes or short-term overseas exchange programmes to widen students' exposure in international maritime. Details are tabulated at **Annex**.

4. The training and incentive schemes under the MATF are undertaken in collaboration with the industries and academia. They seek to support the sustainable development of the maritime and aviation sectors by attracting more new blood to the industries and encouraging practitioners to acquire further qualifications and expertise in their respective fields, so as to expand the pool of talents and enhance the

overall competency and professionalism of the maritime and aviation sectors, which in turn would enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international and regional maritime and aviation hub. Response to these initiatives from the industry players and participating colleges/students so far has been very encouraging.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mary Tsang', written in a cursive style.

(Mary Tsang)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn : Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Treasury) 1)

**Details, Progress and Achievements
of the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (“MATF”)**

Initiative	Details and Progress	Achievement since Launching of Initiative
(a) Maritime and Aviation Internship Network (Internship Network)	This initiative was embarked in April 2014 under which summer internship positions in maritime- and aviation-related companies were offered to tertiary students. The MATF contributed up to 75% or \$6,000, whichever is lower, towards each student’s monthly honorarium, for an internship period up to two months. The scheme is being re-run for the 2015 summer, benefitting students of 12 institutions.	248 students and 29 companies from aviation- and maritime- related fields participated in the Internship Network in the summer of 2014 ¹ .
(b) Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme (ProTERS)	The Scheme was introduced in April 2014 to encourage and support in-service practitioners of the maritime and aviation sectors to attend / sit for pre-approved courses and professional examinations. Eligible applicants are refunded with 80% of the fees after completion of / passing the courses/ examinations, subject to a cap of \$18,000 per person.	61 pre-approved professional courses and examinations have been listed under the Scheme. More than 220 applications have been approved.
(c) Local Vessel Trade Training Incentive Scheme (LVTTIS)	The Scheme was introduced in April 2014 to provide financial incentive for eligible deck / engine room ratings who are newly employed by	12 deck / engine room ratings newly employed by the local vessel

¹ Figures for 2015 will be available in end Q3/Q4 2015.

Initiative	Details and Progress	Achievement since Launching of Initiative
	the local vessel trade to accumulate the required sea-going experience and to acquire the first professional qualification as coxswains or engine operators on local vessels. An incentive totalling up to \$30,000 may be provided to each eligible applicant.	trade are receiving incentives under this scheme.
(d) Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme ^(Note)	<p>The Scheme was first launched in 2004 through which cadets were provided with a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for a maximum period of 18 months while in cadetship to acquire seafaring experience on ocean-going vessels.</p> <p>Starting from April 2014, the monthly cadetship subsidy was increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000.</p>	369 cadets have so far joined the Scheme. 174 cadets have successfully obtained their first professional qualifications and 116 cadets are still on the roll.
(e) Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme ^(Note)	The Scheme was first introduced in 2006. Graduates from selected Vocational Training Council (VTC) courses who enrolled for apprenticeship under the Scheme are being offered a monthly subsidy of \$1,500, up to 36 months.	So far, 97 apprentices have completed the scheme. 23 apprentices are still on the roll.
(f) Hong Kong Maritime and Logistics Scholarship Scheme	First introduced in 2007. Selected Hong Kong Polytechnic University students of the Master of Science in International Shipping and Transport Logistics programme are awarded scholarship to cover full tuition fee and a living allowance.	So far, there have been 108 scholarship recipients. 86 have graduated from the course.

Initiative	Details and Progress	Achievement since Launching of Initiative
(g) Hong Kong Maritime Law Scholarship Scheme ^(Note)	First introduced in 2010. Selected City University of Hong Kong (CityU) students of the Master of Laws (Maritime and Transportation Law) programme are awarded scholarship to cover full tuition fee.	So far, there have been 31 scholarship recipients. 22 have graduated from the course.
(h) HKU – DMU Academic Collaboration Scheme	Since 2008, the Scheme has been jointly run by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Dalian Maritime University (DMU) through which scholarships are offered to selected DMU students for studying in the Master of Common Law at the HKU, and selected HKU students are sponsored to undertake summer courses at the DMU. Hong Kong practitioners are also sponsored to attend executive training programme organised by DMU. Visiting professors from the DMU are funded under the scheme to teach courses on Mainland shipping law at the HKU.	So far, 39 scholarship recipients have graduated and joined the maritime industry. A total of 500 HKU students and Hong Kong in-service practitioners have participated in the courses organised by DMU.
(i) Partial Tuition Refund Scheme for the Specialised Aircraft Maintenance Programme	The Scheme was launched in April 2014 to encourage young people to choose specialised aircraft maintenance programmes offered by the VTC and join the aircraft maintenance industry after graduation. Eligible applicants of the Scheme will receive refund of 50% of the	51 graduates joined the aircraft maintenance industry and are receiving refund under the scheme.

Initiative	Details and Progress	Achievement since Launching of Initiative
	total tuition fee paid for the programmes, subject to a maximum sum of \$30,000 (whichever is the less).	
(j) Maritime-related Student Overseas Exchange Sponsorship	<p>Four local universities, i.e. the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the City University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, are being engaged in an overseas student exchange sponsorship scheme which sponsors selected students to one semester of overseas academic exchange to take up maritime-related courses.</p> <p>Selected students will receive a sponsorship of \$30,000 to \$50,000.</p>	18 students have been selected for the exchange so far.
(k) Others	Since April 2014, the MATF has been sponsoring various promotional initiatives to reach out to the younger generations and the community at large, in particular youngster in their early secondary years, to promote the “brand awareness” of the maritime and aviation sectors.	Funded the promotion at Education and Careers Expo in 2014 and 2015, production of TV episodes for the aviation and maritime sectors, conducted four school talks and supported three events/activities by the relevant industries or

Initiative	Details and Progress	Achievement since Launching of Initiative
		non-profit making bodies to promote Hong Kong's maritime industry or reach out to different audiences.

(Note) These schemes had been running on funding allocated before the setting up of the MATF. With effect from 1 April 2014, these schemes are being managed by the MATF and will continue to run on remaining funding until that runs out. Thereafter, the schemes will be funded by the MATF.