Working Group on Maritime Emissions

Membership

The Working Group is convened by the Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection and comprises representatives of the Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department (ENB/EPD), the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) the Transport Department (TD), and the Marine Department (MD).

Role

- 2. The Working Group will examine and recommend practicable measures to reduce the emissions from two key maritime emission sources, i.e. ferries and ocean-liners.
- 3. Specifically, the Working Group will examine the technical feasibility of fuelling ferries by ultra-low sulphur diesel (ULSD), identify any constraints and possible solutions, and recommend practicable measures for promoting the use of ULSD by ferries. For ocean-liners, the Working Group will examine the best international practices adopted by ports worldwide to reduce emissions, identify any constraints against their implementation and possible solutions, and evaluate the impact of adopting the measures in Hong Kong.

Progress of Work

4. The Working Group met on 10 January 2008 and agreed that priority be given to promoting the use of ULSD in ferries. An Expert Group, comprising representatives from EPD, TD and MD was set up to examine the relevant technical and practical issues, and to lay the groundwork for conducting a trial of local ferries using ULSD. The Expert Group already met in February and is examining the technical feasibility of conducting the trial.

Environmental Protection Department March 2008