

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Follow-up Action Arising from the Meeting on 21 December 2011
Response from the Administration**

Agenda Item IV. Controlling emissions from vessels

Additional Information on the Fair Winds Charter, including the number of ocean going vessels equipped to perform fuel switch at berth and their routing:

The Fair Winds Charter (the Charter) is a voluntary fuel switch at berth scheme drawn up by the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association. It was launched in January 2011 and will expire in end 2012. At present, 17 operators have signed up to the Charter and committed to voluntarily switching to a fuel containing 0.5% sulphur or less while at berth in Hong Kong, to the maximum extent possible.

2. In 2011, 3,616 ocean going vessel (OGV) calls switched fuel when berthing in Hong Kong, accounting for about 11% of the total OGV arrivals. Among these OGV calls having switched fuel-
 - (a) the vast majority (about 95%) were container vessels berthing at Kwai Chung Container Terminals;
 - (b) among the calls made by container vessels, about 36% were en route from overseas ports to Guangzhou and Shenzhen ports (or vice versa) for loading and unloading; and
 - (c) about 0.1% were cruise vessels calling Hong Kong from the Mainland and Taiwan.
3. The fuel switch resulted in a reduction in about 890 tonnes of sulphur dioxide that would have otherwise been emitted.
4. We have been in liaison with the shipping industry on the Charter and are consulting the industry on the proposal to encourage OGVs to

switch fuel at berth by reducing their port facilities and light dues. We have not received any feedback that OGVs calling Hong Kong have technical difficulties in performing fuel switch at berth.

5. While we have commenced discussion with the governments of Pearl River Delta (PRD) to explore the feasibility of requiring OGVs to switch to low-sulphur fuel while berthing at ports of Hong Kong and the PRD, the Secretary for the Environment had, during his European visit in April/May 2012, met with the Danish Shipowners' Association to hear more about the Charter.

Environmental Protection Department
June 2012