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15 July 2013

Clerk to ED Panel
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn: Mr Noel SUNG)

By Email
and By Post
(total 2 pages)

Dear Mr SUNG,

**Panel on Economic Development
Follow-up to meeting on 24 June 2013**

**Incorporating in local legislation the latest standards
of the International Maritime Organization on vessel emissions
(Agenda Item IV)**

At the captioned meeting, Members requested the Government to provide information on the assessment on the level of pollution caused by locally licensed vessels and river trade vessels which were currently required to comply with the Tier I level for emission of nitrogen oxides, and the time-table for introduction of legislation to upgrade the control level to Tier II for new vessels. The information is provided below.

In 2011, the total NO_x emission in Hong Kong from different pollutant sources is about 114 000 tonnes. Of this, about 11 900 tonnes (10%) and 9 650 tonnes (8.5%) were emitted by locally licensed vessels and river trade vessels respectively. In 2012, the Hong Kong Port saw a total of 160 156 arrivals of river trade vessels, the majority of which are registered with the Mainland.

The Marine Department has been exploring with the local trade and the Guangdong authorities the introduction of Tier II level control (more stringent than Tier I) for both locally licensed vessels and river trade vessels with a view to further reducing NOx emission whilst ensuring a level playing field among the two types of vessels. In this connection, the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration is conducting a study on the technical feasibility of applying the Tier II level to river trade vessels; the results are expected to be available in 2013. The Government will work out a timeframe for upgrading the control level to Tier II for newly constructed locally licensed vessels and river trade vessels as soon as possible, having regard to the results of the study, the discussion with the Guangdong authorities and local consultation.



(Kerr LI)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

DEP

D of Marine

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