

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development

Meeting on 26 June 2017

Further Development of Hong Kong's Port and Maritime Services

Purpose

This note sets out the Government's response to the motion carried at ED Panel meeting on 26 June 2017 concerning the further development of Hong Kong's port and maritime services.

Hong Kong Shipping Register

2. The Hong Kong Shipping Register ("HKSR") is the world's fourth largest shipping register in terms of total registered gross tonnage (GT). As at end May 2017, a total of 2 540 ships with a total GT of 110.1 million were registered with HKSR. HKSR also performs well in terms of fleet quality, with a port state control detention rate of only 0.81%, which is much lower than the world average of 3.13% in 2016.

3. In view of the global nature of the shipping industry, Marine Department ("MD") provides round the clock services to Hong Kong registered ships. In Hong Kong, HKSR provides one-stop shop services in a single office to handle all registration-related matters. In overseas countries, the Marine Adviser of MD, who is based in the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office ("ETO") in London, also provides ship registration services to shipowners in Europe. To widen the coverage of service area and expedite the delivery of the Certificate of Registry ("CoR") for new ships registered with HKSR, MD is working with selected overseas and Mainland ETOs to enlist their assistance to deliver registration documents to overseas and Mainland shipowners. Moreover, MD has been providing instant online authentication services for some of the certificates it issued, including the "Certificates of Competency", the "Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security in respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage" and the "Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security in respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage". An authentication system is also being developed to verify the authenticity of CoR by electronic means. MD aims at rolling out the system in the third quarter of 2017.

4. To keep up with the latest development of the maritime industry and business operations, MD has frequent meetings with the industry and from time to time reviews HKSR's services and operations for continuous enhancement. MD renders prompt assistance to Hong Kong registered ships encountering inspection and detention by other port authorities. Where necessary, MD will provide documentary proof of the seaworthiness of Hong Kong registered ships to enable them to set sail. In case of unfair treatment, MD will appeal to the port authorities on behalf of the shipowners.

Promoting the Maritime Industry

5. Promoting Hong Kong's maritime cluster and high value-added maritime services is a major work focus of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board ("HKMPB"). Since its establishment in April 2016, HKMPB has actively participated in large-scale international maritime exhibitions (e.g. "Marintec China" in Shanghai in 2015 and "Posidonia" in Athens in 2016), embarked on visits to overseas and Mainland cities (e.g. London, Hamburg, Tokyo, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, etc.), and organised events locally (e.g. Hong Kong Maritime Industry Week in 2016) to promote Hong Kong's maritime industry and to encourage youngsters to pursue maritime careers. Such work has widened and reinforced our international network, and has generated leads for collaboration, notably in manpower development and business partnership. For instance, in October 2016, the International Union of Marine Insurance set up its first Asian hub in Hong Kong to foster closer ties with the marine insurance sector in Asia. We will continue to step up our promotion efforts to encourage overseas and Mainland maritime enterprises and international organisations to set up presence in Hong Kong or use Hong Kong's multifarious maritime services.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
Marine Department
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