Challenges and Actions

Assisting Seafarers
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Marine Department, Hong Kong, China
November 2020
Challenges

- Crew Change Restrictions at Maritime Ports

- Expiry of Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA)

- Port State Control Issues

- Expiry of Crew’s Certificate of Competency (CoC), Medical Fitness Certificate and Unavailability of Training Courses

- Operational Constraints
Actions - taken by the Hong Kong Marine Department

- The setting up of an Information Portal on matters related to COVID-19 for easy access by seafarers and shipping companies

- Process of applying for SEA extension

- Arrangement for the extension of CoC, relevant Endorsement, and medical fitness certificates

- Departmental Work Arrangements to support HK ships and seafarers
- Assistance for Hong Kong Ships and Seafarers at Ports outside Hong Kong
  - Other Maritime Administrations, Organizations, port Authorities etc.
  - China Embassy/Consulate

- Best Practices for Shipping Companies’ consideration
  - Charter flight
  - Vacation leave overseas/on board
  - Repatriation by sea (Full/Partial)
## Actions - Crew Change in Hong Kong

### Under “Suppress and Lift” Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month in 2020</th>
<th>Confirmed COVID-19 cases</th>
<th>Implementation date of adjusted crew change measure</th>
<th>Crew change for goods vessels with cargo operation</th>
<th>Crew change for goods vessels without cargo operation</th>
<th>Crew change for cruise ships</th>
<th>Number of sign-on and sign-off crew involved in crew change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>8-Feb-2020</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>586</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25,032 (8-Feb-2020 to 28-Jul-2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>9-Apr-2020</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9-Apr-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>8-Jun-2020</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>27-Jun-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>2,067 (with peak of 149 cases on 30-Jul-2020)</td>
<td>10-Jul-2020</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√ (quota : 300 per day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>1,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>150 (up to 17-Oct-2020)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of sign-on and sign-off crew (from 8-Feb-2020 to 17-Oct-2020) 29,087
Crew Change in Hong Kong

Flights to major port States and seafarer supply nations

Source: https://www.hongkongairport.com/en/flights/departures/passenger.page
Thank You!

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