

*IS Activities - Evening Seminar "The Implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 in Hong Kong"*

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC) was adopted at an International Labour Conference held in February 2006. Apart from consolidating and updating the existing International Labour Organization's requirements with respect to seafarers' matters, more comprehensive minimum standards for the working conditions of seafarers have been set to secure the right of all seafarers to decent employment.

Contracting States are obliged to enforce the MLC's requirements in such manner that best meets the requirements through domestic laws and practices so as to ensure compliance with the MLC by ship owners and ship managers.

With the imminent global entry into force of the MLC by 20 August this year, the Institute invited Mr. WONG Sai-fat, principle surveyor of ships of the Hong Kong Marine Department on 4 July giving us a presentation on the implementation of the MLC in Hong Kong. Mr. Wong is presently the General Manager of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry and Seafarers Branch of the Marine Department. During the past years, he has contributed a great deal of effort in preparing the local legislation and guidance to the ship owners for the implementation of the MLC.

The presentation served the purpose of information sharing with the audience about the work done, the arrangements made in Hong Kong as well as addressing some complicated scenarios encountered by ship owners and ship managers in the process of complying with the Hong Kong's requirements of the MLC.

A brief background was introduced on the enactment of the MLC into local legislation. The legislative process was then explained in more detail from the adoption of the Convention in 2006 to the recent tabling of the draft law in the Bills Committee in the Legislative Council. Mr. Wong further discussed certain inquiries regarding the following:

- Definition of Ship owners and Seafarers;
- Recruitment and Placement Services;
- Financial Security;
- Seafarers' Employment Agreement;
- Cook and Medical Requirements and
- Statement of Compliance

The Convention sets out seafarers' rights to decent conditions of work on a wide range of subjects and aims to be globally applicable, easily understandable, readily updatable and uniformly enforced. There were about 80 members / non-members attending the seminar.

---

—

(Mr. Li Yiu Kwong : Executive Committee Member of Institute of Seatransport)



*Mr. Wong Sai Fat gave members/non-members a presentation on the implementation of the MLC in Hong Kong*



*Mr. Manson Cheung (Vice-Chairman / Internal Affairs) presented souvenir to Mr. S F Wong*