

Review of Maritime Education at Hong Kong

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Maritime Industry

Being a world-class logistics hub, Hong Kong is the 3rd busiest container port in the world; Hong Kong's international airport is the world's number one airport for cargo and the number three airport for passenger traffic. In his Policy Address in 2001, the Chief Executive stated that Hong Kong is a free port having international connections, an excellent location, mature infrastructure, well-developed intermodal systems, frequency of service, free port status and an efficient customs processes. Due to the proximity of Pearl River Delta ("PRD") region, Hong Kong is able to attract significant foreign investment from the PRD area. Moreover, Hong Kong is an important place for ship registration, shipping finance and marine insurance. Its International Centre for Arbitration & Alternate Dispute Resolution hears many maritime cases. Hong Kong adopted the British Common law system. Its rule of law and independent judicial systems support substantial growth of maritime activities. The growth of maritime and aero industries in Hong Kong has created a demand for experienced and qualified shipping professionals. The future of "Logistics and Transport Hong Kong" aims to create an even more knowledgeable business environment so that Hong Kong will stay as a preferred international and regional logistics hub and transport centre.

The HKSAR government strongly supports education and training of the logistics and transport industry. There are a wide variety of institutions which offer programmes ranging from master degrees, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate diplomas, higher diplomas, professional diplomas, advanced diplomas, diplomas, advanced certificates to certificates of logistics and transport. Table 1 summarizes different types of logistics and transport courses in Hong Kong.

Table 1: Summary Table of Hong Kong Maritime Courses

Types of Course	Full Time	Part Time	Distance Learning	Total
Master Degree	1	7	1	9
Undergraduate Degree	13	0	1	14
Postgraduate Diploma	1	1	0	2
Higher Diploma	6	1	0	7
Professional Diploma	0	8	0	8
Advanced Diploma	1	1	0	2
Diploma	1	2	1	4
Advanced Certificate	0	1	0	1
Certificate	2	24	2	28
Total	25	45	5	75

(Sources: Institute of Seatrtransport; Jupas; Non Local Programme Registration; The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions; HKUSPACE; The Institute of Export; HKMA; HKLA; The Hong Kong Shippers' Council; HKSTLA; Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education; CILTHK; HAFFA; ERB; The University of Hong Kong; University of Science and Technology; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; The City University of Hong Kong; The Open University of Hong Kong)

Contemporary Issues

1. Scope of area:

The majority of training courses are concentrated on logistics operations and supply chain management. Generally, there are few programmes in pure maritime transport. The port of Hong Kong is one of top container ports in the world, handling 23.7 million TEUs of containers in 2010. It is therefore also necessary to develop training programmes to meet the needs for sea freight management and operations.

2. Course design

Except for some non-award bearing programmes, current logistics and transport programmes are mainly focused on theoretical or conceptual issues. Very few programmes are of a practical nature, particularly in shipping operations, dangerous goods handling and import/export trading practices. When designing new programmes, it is recommended that both theoretical and practical aspects be included.

3. Comprehensive training programme

Very few programmes link port and terminal operations and intermodal transport

operations. They are major players in the transport and logistics systems in Hong Kong. Consideration should be given to incorporating these key areas when developing future comprehensive training programmes.