HKLSA & HKSOA Welcome HK Chief Executive's Support for Marine Emission Reduction Efforts

CE's support will help reduce emissions of sulphur and particulate matter

Hong Kong, 16 January, 2013 – The Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (HKLSA) and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) welcome the statements made in the Chief Executive's Policy Address for 2013 in support of reducing emissions in the maritime sector.

The announcement that the government will seek to introduce legislation to make switching to lower sulphur fuel compulsory in Hong Kong port and to step up its efforts with the Guangdong Provincial Government to extend fuel switching to Pearl River Delta ports will build on the voluntary action already taken by the shipping industry to reduce emissions in Hong Kong under the Fair Winds Charter ('FWC').

"The pioneering work to switch to low sulphur fuel in Hong Kong under the 'Fair Winds Charter' shows the shipping industry's commitment to work with government to tackle the challenges of marine emissions. We are pleased to see the Chief Executive's support in the Policy Address for action to address this issue, and believe that by working together, government and the shipping industry can achieve significant improvements in air quality in HK," says Tim Smith, Chairman of HKLSA.

The voluntary fuel switch by 14 members of the liner shipping industry and 4 other shipping companies under the FWC has contributed to substantially reduced pollution in HK since the end of 2010. The shipping industry is calling for mandatory regulation of maritime emissions to provide a level playing field for all operators that is consistent with international regulation, whilst setting progressively tighter emissions standards.

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