

25 April 2017

Mr. WONG Kam Sing, GBS, JP  
Secretary for the Environment  
Environment Bureau  
16/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear

K.S.,

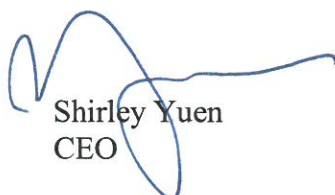
## **Proposal to Mandate Ocean-going Vessels and River Trade Vessels to use Compliant Fuel within Hong Kong Waters**

Improving the environment is crucial for Hong Kong to remain an attractive place to live and do business. In addition to proposing a number of initiatives to improve the environment in particular on air quality, the Chamber has supported the “fuel switch at berth” scheme initiated by the shipping sector, and the establishment of an emission control area in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) waters since the early 2010s. It is encouraging to note that the HKSAR Government introduced legislation to mandate ocean-going vessels to use low sulphur fuel while at berth in 2015, which might play a key role in the Chinese Government issuing an action plan to establish three “Domestic Emission Control Areas (DECAs)” including PRD waters in the same year.

In order to cover Hong Kong in the PRD’s DECA, we support the HKSAR Government’s proposal to mandate ocean-going vessels and river trade vessels to use compliant fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% by weight within Hong Kong waters from 1 January 2019 onward. As there is a possibility that the Mainland regulators might adopt a more exacting 0.1% standard for DECAs in January 2019 or thereafter, we recommend the HKSAR Government adding a provision in the legislation to adopt the 0.1% requirement in the event that the Mainland Government decides to adopt a more stringent standard, so as to bring us in alignment with the emission requirement of the PRD’s DECA. In fact, we understand that ocean-going vessels generally carry 0.1% compliant fuel on board already to meet the US and European standards, and the shipping sector has been lobbying for the above provision.

I hope our views will be well considered by the Government. Going forward, the Chamber maintains our position of calling for more proactive local actions and greater cooperation with the PRD to improve the regional air quality.

Regards



Shirley Yuen  
CEO

c.c Air Policy Section (5), Environmental Protection Department