



IALA EVENTS

DIGITAL@SEA CB WORKSHOP 2021

Mobile APP “iSailing” for Hong Kong

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Mobile APP “iSailing” for Hong Kong

1. What is the APP
2. Why to develop the APP
3. The functions of the APP



1. What is the APP

The Mobile APP “iSailing” is:

- ▶ A mobile application being developed jointly by our department (Marine Department) and Southern Navigation Service Center, China;
- ▶ It could be installed and used on mobile phone; and
- ▶ The main purpose is to facilitate the communication between Hong Kong Vessel Traffic Centre (HKVTC) and River Trade Vessels (RTVs) coming to HK, so as to provide better marine service.



“iSailing” APP

2. Why to develop the APP

a. The Port of Hong Kong

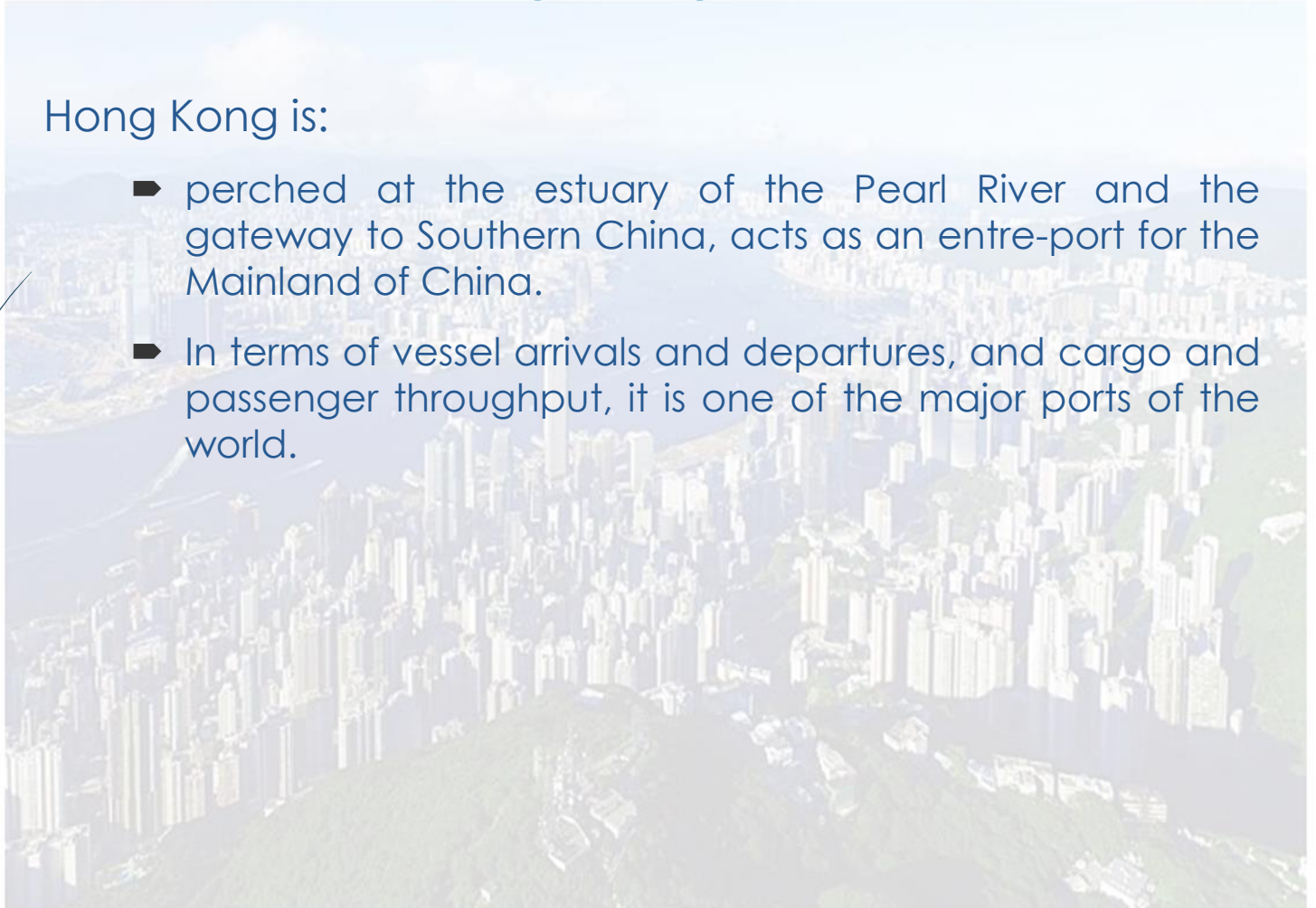


2. Why to develop the APP

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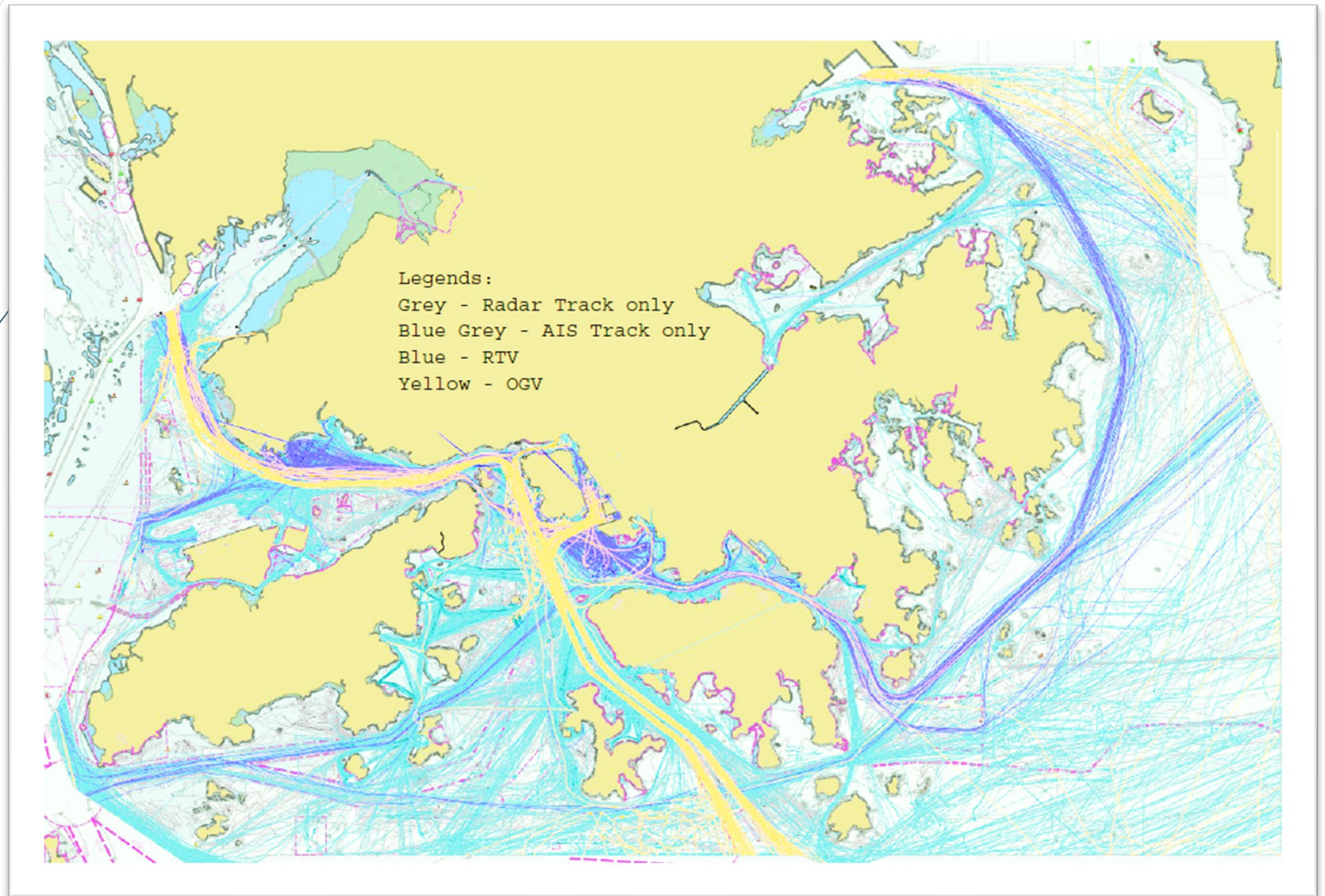
Hong Kong is:

- ▶ perched at the estuary of the Pearl River and the gateway to Southern China, acts as an entre-port for the Mainland of China.
- ▶ In terms of vessel arrivals and departures, and cargo and passenger throughput, it is one of the major ports of the world.



2. Why to develop the APP

b. Challenge facing



2. Why to develop the APP

b. Challenge facing

Marine traffic situation within Hong Kong waters:

- ▶ As per the statistic from 2015 to 2019, every day there are around 74 OGVs* and 416 RTVs* calling HK
- ▶ Apart from OGVs and RTVs, there are around 20,000 local vessels such as ferry, work boat, dump lighter operating within HKW
- ▶ Within limited water area, the marine traffic is quite complicated and congested

➤ *Ocean Going Vessels (OGVs) refer to vessels operating beyond the river trade limits ;*

➤ *River Trade Vessels (RTVs) refer to vessels plying within the river trade limits, they are mainly engaged in trading in short voyage between HK and other ports located within pearl river, they are relatively small vessels with light draft and relatively slower speed but heavily contribute to marine traffic.*

2. Why to develop the APP

b. Challenge facing

For the safety of marine traffic:

- ▶ Marine Department started to provide the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) for the port of Hong Kong in 1989.
- ▶ Most vessels calling HK are required to report to HKVTC, such as: Pre-arrival Notification; Initial Report; Calling-in Point Report; Arrival Report; Departure Report and so on.



2. Why to develop the APP

b. Challenge facing

In current practice, most reports made to HKVTC via VHF, so:

- ▶ The VHF communication is quite busy;
- ▶ Vessel Traffic Service Operator (VTSO) on duty is fully occupied to handle the reports sometimes;
- ▶ VTSO may be distracted by VHF communication and has less concentration on observation and prediction to vessels' movement; and
- ▶ VTSO may not able to provide good vessel traffic service.

To improve the above undesirable situation and also to provide better marine service, Marine Department is exploring the digital communication as an additional means to the VHF communication.

Marine Department is working with Southern Navigation Service Center, China to develop Mobile APP “iSailing” for HK.

3. The functions of the APP

The APP is still being developed and scheduled to roll out in 2022. The APP is initially designed to have the following functions:

- To submit all the reports required
- To remind vessel to submit the reports required
- To verify and process the reports roughly
- To receive marine safety message
- To keep all records automatically

3. The functions of the APP

To be user-friendly, the APP will have the following features:

- pre-fill the default information such as the vessel particulars
- pre-set all the report forms for easy filling
- check if the information filled is logically in order
- verify if the vessel is eligible to submit report
- keep all records automatically
- allow to amend, delete or resubmit the report

3. The functions of the APP

With the use of the APP:

- ▶ Master of RTV could send the e-report via the APP easily
- ▶ It may save the air-time for VHF communication
- ▶ It will facilitate the communication between vessels and HKVTC
- ▶ VTSO on duty may focus more on the vessel movement and provide better vessel traffic service
- ▶ It will be more easy to retrieve the trip activities record

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Hong Kong, showing a dense urban landscape with many skyscrapers, a large bay, and mountains in the background. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible.

Thank You !