

Press Release

IPCC visited Marine Police Regional Headquarters

(HONG KONG – 12 May 2023) An Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) delegation of Council Members and Secretariat staff members, led by IPCC Chairman Ms Priscilla WONG Pui-sze, SBS, JP, visited the Marine Regional Headquarters (MHQ) yesterday. During the visit, the delegation learned about the work of the Marine Region, challenges faced by frontline Marine police officers as they perform duties at sea and undertake rescue operations, and the latest technologies that enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement actions and training for officers.

The IPCC delegation received a briefing from MHQ representatives on the Marine Region's organisational structure, operations and core responsibilities of the fleet – which allowed Members to better understand the Marine Police's security and law enforcement actions in Hong Kong waters. The MHQ representatives also introduced the Police Launch Simulation System used in training Marine police officers at the Marine Police Training School. Simulating a variety of weather and sea conditions, this system enables trainees to improve their judgement and resilience in times of crisis.

The delegation then took the Regional Training Launch to the south-eastern waters of Hong Kong to watch a demonstration of high-speed interception of suspicious vessels at sea by Marine police officers with the aid of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS). UAS strengthens the effectiveness of police search and rescue missions and interception operations.

Frontline officers shared with Members their daily work both at sea and on islands, and their experience of rescuing drowning persons during Typhoon Mangkhut. IPCC Chairman, along with Members and Secretary-General, also boarded the Multi-Mission Interceptor, to experience first-hand the challenges encountered by Marine police officers while performing their duties at sea.

IPCC Chairman Ms Priscilla WONG said, “The Marine Region oversees the largest area among all police regions, and the nature of its work is very special. The Marine Police are firm and fearless in cracking down on illegal activities at sea, and safeguarding the lives and property of land-based and floating populations. During the pandemic, the Marine Police took on the role of steadfast guardians of the community. They contributed to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, through dispatching marine vessels to transport infected citizens from outlying islands to the city for isolation and treatment. With the valuable experience from this visit, Members have gained a better understanding of the various policing challenges faced by the Marine Region. These insights will assist IPCC as we study ways to prevent and reduce complaints in future.”

IPCC always upholds the fact-and-evidence-based principle to ensure every complaint is handled in a fair and impartial manner. While safeguarding the rights of the public to lodge complaints, the Council also protects law enforcement officers from malicious accusations. IPCC is also proactive in proposing pragmatic Service Quality Improvement Initiatives (SQIIs) to the police identified from vetting complaints. These SQIIs cover the work of all police regions, including the Marine Region, and can assist the police in enhancing their service quality and reducing complaints in various ways.

With Photos:



Ms Priscilla WONG Pui-sze (IPCC Chairman) and Members,
accompanied by Ms Rebecca LAM Hiu-tong (Director of Management Services) and
other police representatives, visiting the Marine Regional Headquarters.

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