

THE SEVENTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE

HONG KONG
2018 – 19

PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE

Port Welfare Committee
(1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

- Chairman :** Mr FENG Jia-pei - Hong Kong Shipowners Association
- Members :** Mr Fared Ahamad KHAN - Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
- Mr Alok ROY - Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
- Mr Michael MARQUES
(up to 16 August 2018) - Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Hong Kong
- Mr CHAN Wai-leung
(from 17 August 2018)
- Ms CHIU Sui-hang, Emma - Hong Kong Seamen's Union
(up to 13 June 2019)
- Mr LIAO Bowen
(from 14 June 2019)
- Dr HO Lei-ming, Raymond - Department of Health (ex-officio)
- Ms CHAN Pui-ching, Cecilia - Labour Department (ex-officio)
(up to 20 January 2019)
- Miss KAM Wing-yin, Gloria
(from 21 January 2019)
- Mr CHAN Ming-yau - Marine Department (ex-officio)
- Secretary :** Ms NG Yin-nei, Fausta - Marine Department (ex-officio)

HONORARY AUDITOR

Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit
Marine Department

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To co-ordinate on behalf of Government arrangements in Hong Kong for the social and recreational welfare of all serving seamen, with the exception of those who are residing in Hong Kong. The term “serving seamen” is construed to mean “those seamen visiting the port and those temporarily residing here, consequent upon discharge for health or other reasons, awaiting re-engagement or repatriation”.
2. To allocate any grants or monies which the Port Welfare Committee may receive from all sources for the social and recreational welfare of seamen.
3. To obtain information on developments and facilities in connection with seamen’s welfare in other ports, and to take appropriate action in the light of this information.
4. To take such other action as it may see fit to promote the welfare of visiting seamen, including action in conjunction with other social and recreational bodies.
5. To publish an annual report and audited accounts.

REPORT

Introduction

The membership of the Port Welfare Committee (The Committee) is drawn from representatives of the local shipping community and government departments which are concerned with the welfare of visiting seafarers on ships calling at Hong Kong.

Objectives and Subventions

2. It is an international common practice for major ports to provide seafarers, who are away from home for prolonged periods at sea, with social and welfare services and onshore facilities that typically include affordable accommodation of reasonable standard and other leisure facilities. The Committee aims to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities. In Hong Kong, such support services are provided by the Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers (The Mission)¹ and Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong (The Church). These two organisations derive their income from the services they offer, such as restaurant facilities. In addition, The Committee's subventions are one of the sources of funds for them.

Finance

3. The Committee relies upon donations from the shipping and commercial community for its financial resources. The total amount of

¹ The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen was retitled as the Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers with effect from 25 May 2018

donations collected in 2018-19 was \$167,890. In the same year, a subvention of \$150,000 was granted to The Mission and \$15,000 to The Church.

Shipping

4. Hong Kong is an international maritime centre and a regional hub port. It is one of the busiest ports in the world. In 2018, there were 350 400 vessel arrivals and departures at Hong Kong Port, involving 19.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units of containers and 259 million tonnes of cargo. The cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys exceeded 28 million.

Employment

5. The shortage of manpower is a subject of concern to the maritime industry in Hong Kong. The government and the industry have joined hands to train up local persons to help alleviate this shortage. A Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme² was set up in 2004 with an initial funding of \$9.0 million. An additional amount of \$19.2 million was granted by the government in 2009. Further amounts of \$12.4 million, \$4.38 million and \$4.64 million were granted in 2014, 2018 and 2019 respectively to the Scheme from the Maritime & Aviation Training Fund³. As at 31 March 2019, a total of 545 young persons had joined the Scheme; 216 deck and 108 engineer cadets had obtained Class 3 Certificate of Competency (CoC); 42 deck and 36 engineer officers had obtained Class 2 CoC; and 32 deck officers and 16 engineer officers had obtained Class 1 CoC. The result was encouraging.

² <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/others/sgtis.html> and <http://www.hkmpb.gov.hk/en/manpower/sgtis.html>

³ <http://www.hkmpb.gov.hk/en/matf.html>

*The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers*⁴



6. In 2018, the chaplain and ship visitors of The Mission have been continually visiting vessel's crew both in Hong Kong Terminals in Kwai Chung and by use of its motor launch in the anchorage. 2 929 ship crew have been visited, provided with welfare support and valued contact with crew and officers aboard. All seafarers are visited regardless of their race, creed or colour; all are treated equally and valued as fellow members of the maritime community. Services provided at these visits range from pastoral counselling, legal advice, contact with home, contact and communication with the shipping company or management (often overcoming language difficulties), transport to and from its seafarers centres (1 464 seafarers are transported from ship to shore free of charge), shopping, sightseeing and off the vessel BBQs, religious services particularly after a death on board, ship blessing and many other services - too small to name individually. Apart from daily visiting of ships, The Mission also actively visits all seafarers in hospitals in Hong Kong, helping them with communication to home, and providing them with anything which they may need during their stay and recovery. It is particularly important to visit seafarers in hospital. When other patients are receiving family and friends nearby, the seafarers can feel even more isolated than normal. A visit from the chaplaincy staff can help the seafarer feel wanted, respected and not alone. Of course nothing can replace a family member, and over the last year, The Mission has hosted many families of seafarers who are visiting Hong Kong to see their loved ones in hospital. In 2018, The Mission conducted 98 separate hospital visits and cared for 45 seafarers who were hospitalised in Hong Kong. Seafarers from 10 countries were taken to hospital in Hong Kong throughout the year, most of whom were from China, the Philippines, India and Indonesia and some were from Nepal and Sweden.

⁴ Incorporated under the Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1042)

7. The Mission operates two Mariners' Clubs, one in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) which is in the heart of the tourist area of Kowloon and the second is located right in the centre of "container port city" of Kwai Chung. The Kwai Chung facility is very accessible for those seafarers whose vessels are often only in port for a matter of hours whereas the TST Club is an ideal location for those seafarers who are leaving or joining their vessels and require accommodation. The TST Club is close to the shopping malls, the night markets and the downtown activity of the tourist nightlife. In March 2018, the half-century-old TST Club was closed for redevelopment. The redevelopment will allow The Mission to modernise the facilities of the TST Club for continuous provision of affordable welfare services to seafarers. There will be 75 bedrooms all en-suite, a heated swimming pool, conference facilities, a gym, a restaurant, a bar and a church along with chaplaincy services. The redevelopment process will take about six years, during which a temporary Drop-in-Centre has been established at Wing On Plaza, East TST (Room 705). This facility provides a lounge with free WiFi for seafarers and a bag drop for those who wish to go shopping. Chaplaincy services are available during office hours. The facility also has a conference room that is available to the maritime community. Additional services to the crew of the cruise vessels calling at Kai Tak International Cruise Terminal have been launched since March 2019. A free shuttle service from 10am to 6pm providing hourly transfers from the terminal to East TST is in operation whenever there are cruise vessels visiting the terminal.

8. Kwai Chung was used by 4 645 seafarers as a drop in facility throughout 2018. The Mission runs a taxi/shuttle service from terminals to Kwai Chung Drop-in-Centre and back to anchorage time ashore. Even though shore leave is very short given the quick turnaround times in Hong Kong terminals, The Mission still manages to see a good number of seafarers at the centre.

9. In November 2018, The Mission held its 6th Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Annual Seafarers Awards. With over 260 participants attending the Dinner and Awards Ceremony, the event was again a great success. The awards this year attracted over 10 000 responses from seafarers serving on Hong Kong owned or managed vessels. The survey continued to ask questions about quality of life aboard and how the seafarers were treated by their employers. The survey has now become a benchmark which some companies are measuring how they are doing and has been greeted with more and more enthusiasm each year. The winners took to the stage at the event. Hong Kong Ship Owner of the Year 2018 was awarded to Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Ltd whereas Hong Kong Ship Manager of the Year 2018 was awarded to Fleet Management Ltd. It is planned to carry out the survey during the period from 1 July to 30 October 2019 for the Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Seafarers Awards this year to be held on 14 November 2019. The charity part of the dinner has raised over HK\$850,000, 40% of which has been dedicated to the continuous work of the Mission in Yangon. Other funds have been sent to support The Mission in the Philippines for the seafarers' family assistance network.

Photos taken from the
6th Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Annual Seafarers Awards



Hong Kong Ship Owner Award 2018 to
Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Ltd



Hong Kong Ship Manager Award 2018 to Fleet Management Ltd

Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong⁵

10. The Church has been established in Hong Kong for several decades since 1979. It helps the Danish ships arrive in Hong Kong with anything from dry socks to spiritual aid. The Church in Hong Kong is a branch of



Danish Seamen's Church in foreign ports. For more than a decade, the Church has sent chaplains and staff to major harbours around the world for providing church services, spiritual and welfare services to seafarers on board Danish flagged Ships.

11. An old Danish shanty is about the loneliness of a seafarer on a seagoing vessel. The shanty is more than 80 years old, but it is truer now than before. Modern technology makes it possible to build even bigger ships and at the same time reduce the number of crew members on board. For economical reasons, the shipping companies shorten the time the ships stay at the harbour. Also for economical reasons, the shipping companies recruit manpower of different nationalities all over the world.

12. In the light of the above, The Church plays an indispensable role in providing quality welfare services to the seafarers. The Church visited about 230 ships in 2018-19. Before the ships arrive in Hong Kong, they often send The Church an email for help or assistance, such as requests for some groceries, DVDs or prizes for a raffle game on board. In collaboration with The Danish Government Seamen's Service called "Sea Health & Welfare", The Church is able to print fresh newspapers from all countries. When The Church visits the ships, The Church usually brings along newspapers covering languages of Danish, English, Filipino and Indian. The Church also provides the ships with books published in Danish, English and Polish. If the sailors have time and

⁵ <http://www.soemandskirken.org/>

opportunity to go ashore, The Church has “The Danish Room” on the third floor of the Mariners’ Club in Kwai Chung. Fresh coffee and snacks are provided – A good opportunity for relaxation and conversation.

13. The Church would like to thank the Port Welfare Committee for their faithful support for The Church. The donation to The Church is an extremely welcome addition to The Church’s rather tight budget.



List of donors who made donations to the Port Welfare Committee in 2018 - 19

Donors

- 1 Anglo Eastern Univan Group
- 2 Asia Container Terminals Limited
- 3 Chellaram Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
- 4 Cheoy Lee Shipyards Limited
- 5 Clarksons Platou Asia Limited
- 6 COSCO-HIT Terminals (Hong Kong) Limited
- 7 Gard (HK) Limited
- 8 Grand Seatrade Shipping Company Limited
- 9 Holman Fenwick Willan
- 10 Hong Kong Mid-Stream Operators Association Limited
- 11 Hong Kong Pilots Association Limited
- 12 Hongkong International Terminals Limited
- 13 IMC Development & Management Limited
- 14 K. M. Tam International Limited
- 15 Keesal, Young & Logan
- 16 Ruttonjee Estates Continuation Limited
- 17 Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Company (Hong.Kong) Limited
- 18 Taiship Company Limited
- 19 Teh-Hu Cargocean Management Company Limited
- 20 The Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Association Limited (Tindall
Riley (Britannia) Hong Kong Limited)
- 21 The Caravel Group Limited (Caravel Shipping Limited)
- 22 V. K. Hsu & Sons Foundation Limited
- 23 Valles Steamship Company Limited.

Total donations received in 2018-19: \$167,890.

In addition, the following donation was received in April 2019 and will be reflected in the financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2020.

- 1 V. K. Hsu & Sons Foundation Limited



PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019



HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE (the 'Committee')
(Operated by Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ('HKSAR'))

With the appointment of the Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit of the Marine Department as the Honorary Auditor of the Committee according to the Standing Accounting Instructions (SAI) 1975 (6) of the Government of HKSAR, we have audited the attached financial statements of the Committee set out on pages 2 to 4, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2019, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

The financial statements were prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee, which managed the fund of the Committee. In accordance with SAI 1975 (4), the public officer responsible for the management of a non-Government fund shall cause a statement of receipts and payments to be prepared for the fund for each of its accounting periods and at least once a year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with SAI 1975 and Accounting Circular No. 2/2016, including complying with the independence requirement.

In our opinion, the financial statements were properly prepared from the books and records maintained, and reflected fairly the receipts and payments of the fund of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2019.



MAK On-kei
Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit
Marine Department
Date: 17 September 2019

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

	<u>2019</u> HK\$	<u>2018</u> HK\$
RECEIPTS		
Annual donations	167,890	170,800
Bank interest income	0	0
	<u>167,890</u>	<u>170,800</u>
PAYMENTS		
Grant to The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers	150,000	160,000
Grant to Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong	15,000	16,000
Bank charges	200	300
	<u>165,200</u>	<u>176,300</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	2,690	(5,500)
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	31,884	37,384
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u><u>34,574</u></u>	<u><u>31,884</u></u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

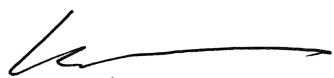
**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

	<u>2019</u> HK\$	<u>2018</u> HK\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	34,574	31,884
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>34,574</u>	<u>31,884</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
RETAINED SURPLUSES	<u>34,574</u>	<u>31,884</u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

We certify that the statement of receipts and payments has been properly prepared and reflects fairly the receipts and payments of the Fund.

Approved by the Committee on 17 September 2019



Chairman
(Mr FENG Jia-pei, Gilbert)



Treasurer
(Miss Dora TUNG)

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES TO
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Reporting entity

Port Welfare Committee is a committee operated by the Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Committee's registered office is located at 21/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Hong Kong.

The Committee is a non-profit making body and its principal activity is to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities.

1. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are prepared on a cash basis. Moreover, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the committee is a going concern.

2. Taxation

No provision for taxation is necessary as the Committee is exempted as a charitable body.

3. Committee Members' emoluments

The Committee Members did not receive any emoluments from the Committee.

