

**THE SEVENTY-SECOND  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE**

**PORT  
WELFARE  
COMMITTEE**

**HONG KONG**

**2020 – 21**

**PORT  
WELFARE  
COMMITTEE**

**Port Welfare Committee**  
**(1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)**

**Chairman :** Mr FENG Jia-pei, Gilbert - Hong Kong Shipowners Association  
(Up to 30 June 2020)

Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois  
(from 1 July 2020)

**Members :** Mr Fared Ahamad KHAN - Hong Kong General Chamber  
(Up to 30 June 2020) of Commerce

Mr Alok ROY  
(Up to 30 June 2020)

Mr CHAN Kam-foo - Hong Kong General Chamber  
(From 1 July 2020) of Commerce

Captain Firoze Minoo MIRZA  
(From 1 July 2020)

Mr CHAN Wai-leung - Merchant Navy Officers'  
Guild – Hong Kong

Mr LIAO Bowen - Hong Kong Seamen's Union

Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong - Department of Health (ex-officio)

Miss KAM Wing-yin, Gloria - Labour Department (ex-officio)

Mr CHAN Ming-yau - Marine Department (ex-officio)

**Secretary :** Ms NG Yin-pei, Fausta - Marine Department (ex-officio)  
(Up to 26 April 2020 )

Ms CHIU Kwok-yi, Lisa  
(From 27 April 2020)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Port Welfare Committee (The Committee) would like to express our sincere gratitude to all parties who have contributed to this annual report.

We would like to acknowledge our heartfelt thanks to the Reverend Canon Stephen Miller, Senior Chaplain of The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers and Anders Larsen, Committee Member of the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong, for their contribution to the articles describing the impressive work accomplished by these two seafarers' welfare agencies in an attempt to advance the welfare of all serving seamen.

Our appreciation also goes to Senior Treasury Accountant / Finance and Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit of the Marine Department of the HKSAR as the Treasurer and the Honorary Auditor of the Committee for compiling and auditing the financial statements annually.

Besides, we would like to record our appreciation to committee members of the last term, including Mr FENG Jia-pei, Gilbert, Mr Fared Ahamad KHAN and Mr Alok ROY for their invaluable contributions to the Committee during their term.

The Committee would also like to thank the Secretariat for their efforts in compiling this publication.

## **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*

Established in 1947, the Port Welfare Committee (the Committee) is a non-statutory body which co-ordinates social and recreational welfare services for visiting seafarers. The Committee has been recognised by the Inland Revenue Department as a charitable institution or trust of a public character since 1961. The membership of the Committee is a tripartite representation of government departments, representatives of employers' associations (i.e. the shipping trade) and employees' institutions (i.e. the seamen's unions), which is concerned with the welfare of visiting seafarers on ships calling at Hong Kong. The Committee aims to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the social and recreational welfare of visiting seafarers of all nationalities.



### *Seafarers' Welfare Agencies*

2. It is an international common practice for major ports to provide support to seafarers away from home for prolonged periods at sea. Such services include social and welfare provisions alongside onshore facilities such as affordable accommodation of reasonable standard and other recreational facilities. In Hong Kong, such support services are provided by The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers (The Mission) and Danish Seamen's Church,



Hong Kong (The Church). These two seafarers' welfare agencies derive their income from the services they offer, such as restaurant facilities and accommodation. In addition, the Committee's subventions are one of their sources of funds.

### *Finance*

3. The Committee relies upon yearly donations from the shipping and commercial community for its financial resources. With appeal letters sent annually to the community, the Committee receives their generous contributions for the noble cause of supporting our visiting seafarers. The total amount of donations collected in Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 was HK\$151,000. Each year, the Committee allocates the donations to the two aforementioned seafarers' welfare agencies. In FY 2020-21, a subvention of HK\$140,000 was granted to The Mission and HK\$14,000 to The Church.



### *Port Statistics*

4. Hong Kong is an international maritime centre and a regional hub port. It is one of the busiest ports in the world. In 2020, there were 175 000 vessel arrivals and departures at Hong Kong Port, involving 18 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs<sup>1</sup>) of containers and 249 million tonnes of cargo. The cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys were 1.3 million in the year. The figure had dropped by about 93% as compared with the previous year due to the pandemic.

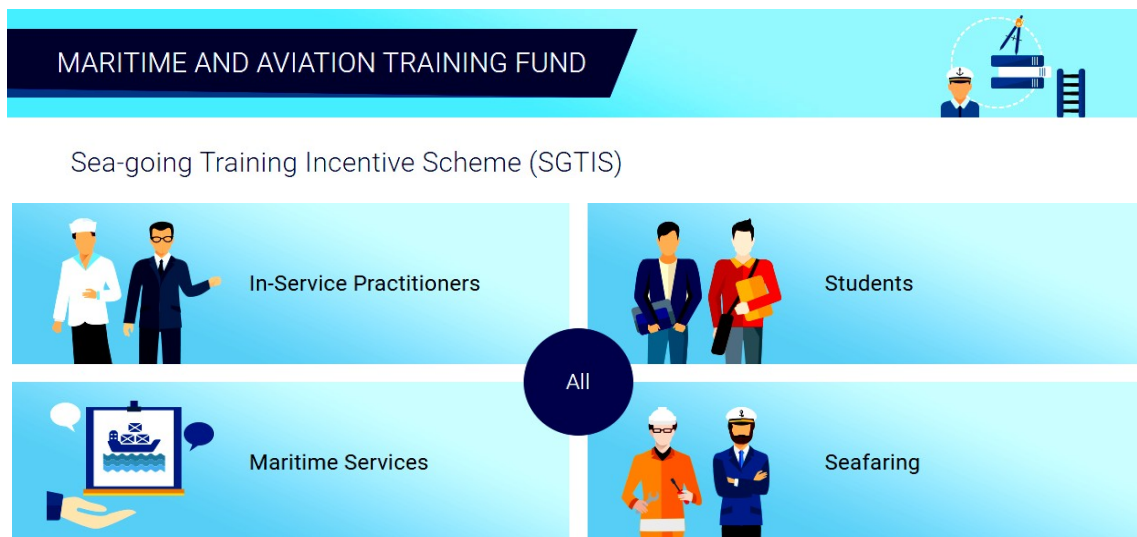


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<sup>1</sup>A 20-foot container is the notional standard “box” of modern cargo logistics. The standard has given rise to the basic measure for container ships and port traffic, the twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU).

## *Employment*

5. The shortage of manpower is a subject of concern of the maritime industry in Hong Kong. The government and the industry have joined hands to train up local seafarers to help alleviate this shortage. A scheme titled “Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme” (the Scheme) 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 Fund. As of 31 March 2021, a total of 616 young persons joined the Scheme; 245 deck cadets and 113 engineer cadets had obtained Class 3 Certificate of Competency (CoC); 64 deck officers and 43 engineer officers had obtained Class 2 CoC; and 39 deck officers and 18 engineer officers had obtained Class 1 CoC. The results were encouraging.





## *The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers<sup>2</sup>*



### **Background**



*Established in 1856 in the United Kingdom, The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers (formerly titled The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen) is an international charitable institution for all seafarers.*

*The Mission is committed to promoting spiritual materials and moral welfare of seafarers through provision of chaplaincy services, accommodation and recreational facilities. Being inter-denominational in character, The Mission has been working in ecumenical partnership with other denominations, including Apostolatus Maris, German Seamen's Mission and Church of Sweden Abroad. These denominations use the Mariners' Club in Kwai Chung as a base for their ministry in the port.*

*Of more than 100 chaplaincies of The Mission worldwide, the port chaplain in Hong Kong was established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Mission was recognised as a statutory corporation by the Government in 1930.*

*In May 2018, The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen was retitled The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers under the Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1042). The Mission, in lieu of The Missions, connotes that it serves seafarers of all nationalities, creeds and genders.*

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.themarinersclubhk.org/>

6. With the contribution of The Mission, the following article describes the meritorious work done by The Mission in FY 2020-21 –

### *Welfare Services*

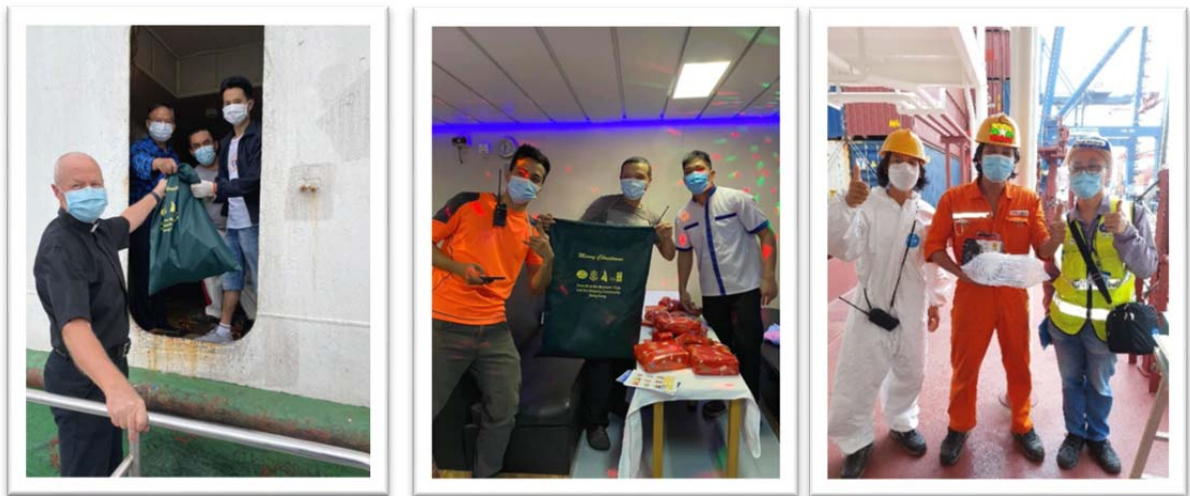
7. Due to the continuation of coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021, seafarers were not able to get ashore and buy necessities by themselves. All ashore leave has also been cancelled. Many seafarers have worked more than one year on board their ships after suspension of crew change across the ports worldwide. Isolation – which has always been a critical issue in the shipping industry – has grown out of all proportion.



8. Under these circumstances, the roles of the Mission were greater than ever. Thanks to weeks to weeks' visits to ships which only gangway visits were generally allowed, the Mission had delivered many daily necessities to seafarers on board such as surgical masks, toiletries and snacks.



9. To facilitate seafarers' communication with their families and friends, the Mission has also supplied mobile phones and data SIM cards to seafarers onboard for them to regain contact with their closed one. Despite the pandemic, the Chaplaincy Team has still managed to make over 4 000 ship visits at terminals and at anchorage in FY 2020-2021. During Christmas 2020, The Mission has also delivered over 8 500 seafarers' gift packages and 10 000 calendars.



10. A mobile Application, named “The Mariners Seafarers Centre, Hong Kong” (海員之家) (the App) developed by the Mission which enables seafarers to find a mission centre operated by The Mission wherever they are around the world, has become more and more popular. According to the system data, there were 13 500 accumulated views of the App and nearly a thousand of download. The features of the App include “contact”, “chat room” and “a shop facility”. During this hard time, the App has facilitated the Mission to get seafarers whatever they need and deliver the groceries to their ships when they call in Hong Kong.





11. Digital contact was also maintained on Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and WeChat. Seafarers are reaching out to the Mission for contact, company, advice and, sometimes, a listening ear. During this period, there were nearly 700 hits per Facebook post released by the Mission. Since the Mission serves also a religious organization for the seafarers, they offered Chaplaincy service on Facebook for all the users to pray for everyone when they were aboard alone. Besides, under the pandemic, the Mission did not stop updating their Facebook page to assist the seafarers on their daily needs. They seized every opportunity to bring all the items as requested to the ships.



## *Facilities*

12. The Mission operates two Mariners' Clubs, one is located right in the centre of "container port city" of Kwai Chung, while the second one in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) which is in the heart of the tourist area of Kowloon. 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 on land.



13. 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 some 70 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 at least a few more 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 and on-call for pastoral counselling during office hours. The facility also has a conference room that is available for the maritime community.

### *Environmental Sustainability*

14. As part of the green plan to be more environmentally aware and efficient, The Mission has replaced one of the existing 14-year-old petrol vehicle with a new zero-emission electric car in FY 2020-21. The Mission was able to take full advantage of the Government's incentive scheme, whereby the trade-in of a petrol vehicle gives a considerable discount on the price of a new all-electric model. The running costs are around 10% of a petrol car whereas the registration and tax are merely 10% of the normal fees. The maintenance fee is also greatly reduced.



The replaced zero-emission electric car

### *The 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Seafarers' Awards 2020 Ceremony*

15. Although the annual Maritime Charity Dinner was unable to be held in 2020 due to the pandemic, the 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Seafarers' Awards 2020 Ceremony was held on 21 January 2021. During the awards ceremony, Hong Kong Ship Owner of the Year 2020 was awarded to Asia Maritime Pacific whereas Hong Kong Ship Manager of the Year 2020 was awarded to The Fleet Ship Management. All parties shared a happy and precious moment together. It was hoped that the charity dinner and the next award ceremony would be able to be held simultaneously on 20 January 2022.



16. This year has been very challenging for all in the maritime sector, in particular for the seafarers who serve aboard, especially those who have had extended duties and contracts aboard. The Mission was pleased to note from the responses to the annual Seafarers' award survey this year that many seafarers considered their companies have acted as second families to them in supporting them through the troubled times, which were encouraging to all maritime counterparts.



17. To prepare for the Hong Kong Seafarers' Awards next year, the seafarers' awards survey will be carried out during the period from September to November 2021. The survey will continue to enquire about quality of life aboard and how the seafarers are treated by their employers. The survey has now become a benchmark which some companies depend on it to measure how they are doing and has been greeted with more and more enthusiasm each year.





## *Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong<sup>3</sup>*

Danske Sømands-  
og Udlandskirker



### ***Background***

*The Danish Seamen's Church / The Danish Churches Abroad (The Church) is a part of the Protestant (Lutheran) Church. More than 50 branches have been established worldwide, some in ports, some in major cities and capitals, and some old emigrant churches. The services in the ports include provision of church services, spiritual and welfare services to seafarers on board.*

*In 1979, The Church reached out to Hong Kong port and became part of the ecumenical partnership at the Mariners' Club. Since then, it has helped Danes and other seafarers with anything from dry socks to spiritual aid.*

18. With the contribution of The Church, the following article remarks the celebration and meritorious work done by The Church in FY 2020-21 –

### ***40<sup>th</sup> Years' Anniversary of The Church's Inauguration in 1981***

19. The Church has been supported by The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers in Hong Kong for 40 years since the Inauguration of The Church and the 'Danish Room' found at the Container Port in Kwai Chung on 28 April 1981. At that time, a large number of industry representatives and honorary guests were invited and assembled in the Mariners' Club. The opening was officiated by HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, who was on an official visit to Hong Kong.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.soemandskirken.org/>

20. Year 2021 marked The Church's 40<sup>th</sup> Years' Anniversary in Hong Kong that was again celebrated with a reception in Mariners' Club. The reception was warm and guests were all delighted to share the happy moment together.



The inauguration in 1981  
officiated by  
HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark



Invitation card to  
The 40th Years' Anniversary of  
the Church in Hong Kong  
held in Mariners' Club

### ***Funding***

21. With regard to the global coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it has been a challenging year for seafarers as it has also for the Church, both operationally and economically. The Church has on one hand had to manage costs and postpone investments, while on the other has had to meet needs for support to seafarers. Funding has been contributed by benefactors, via donations, grants and collection from the industry, organizations, individuals and companies based in Hong Kong, not least The A. P. Moeller Maersk, a global container logistics corporation.

### *Christmas Bazaar*

22. The Church's Christmas Bazaar was the primary way in which donors support the work of The Church. It has been and still is the single biggest social event in the calendar of the Church. Considering the COVID-19 situation this year, the Christmas Bazaar – which was annually held at the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui – was scale back to accommodate restrictions. It was held on 28 November 2020 in Kwai Chung in which the Scandinavian corporations in Hong Kong were invited to contribute their good and merchandise towards tombola and lucky draws.

### *Welfare Services*

23. In order to cope with the increasing demand of visiting seafarers for daily necessities during the pandemic, The Church contacted all ships shortly prior to their call in Hong Kong. The needs were multifaceted, for example snacks, dry goods, coffee, nutrition supplements, items of personal hygiene, electronic items, Hong Kong SIM cards, guitar strings and one or two musical instruments. In giving support to visiting seafarers, The Church has readily stocked up variety of goods.



24. Apart from provision of necessities, The Church has also subscribed different newspapers across the world and distributed printouts to the seafarers. Under the pandemic, there was a greater need for the Church to handle the continued demand for printed newspaper in different languages onboard for information exchange. In supporting all seamen from different nationalities, The Church has delivered newspapers from nine different countries, including Denmark, Ukraine, Philippines, India, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Thailand and Faroe Islands.



### *Facilities*

25. The Church provides a meeting place, the ‘Danish Room’ in the Mariners’ Club, for seafarers in non-COVID times, to gather and mingle. The seafarers and likeminded are usually joined together for social events and gatherings, relax and to catch up. The Church plays an indispensable role in providing quality welfare services to the seafarers.

26. In the coming year, The Church in the port of Hong Kong would like to continue to visit all Danish flagged ships and offer their spiritual and material assistance to everyone on board. It is the hope that the coronavirus pandemic will end soon.



**List of Donors** <sup>Note</sup>  
**Port Welfare Committee in 2020-21**

- 1 BG Shipping Company Limited
- 2 Chellaram Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
- 3 Cheoy Lee Shipyards Limited
- 4 Clarksons Platou Asia Limited
- 5 Gard (HK) Limited
- 6 Grand Seatrade Shipping Company Limited
- 7 Holman Fenwick Willan
- 8 Hong Kong Ming Wah Shipping Co., Ltd
- 9 Interocean Shipping Company Limited
- 10 K. M. Tam International Limited
- 11 Keesal, Young & Logan
- 12 Ruttonjee Estates Continuation Limited
- 13 Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Company (Hong Kong) Limited
- 14 Taiship Company Limited
- 15 The Caravel Group Limited (Caravel Shipping)
- 16 Tindall Riley (Britannia) Hong Kong Limited
- 17 Unique Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
- 18 Valles Steamship Company Limited

<sup>Note</sup> The list is arranged in alphabetical order



**Total donations received in 2020-21: HK\$151,000**

The Committee endorsed in March 2021 the following amount of subventions be granted to the two seafarers' welfare agencies –

<b>The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers</b>	<b>HK\$140,000</b>
<b>Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong</b>	<b>HK\$ 14,000</b>

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**





## **HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE ('the Committee')**

*(Operated by the Marine Department of the Government 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 2021, 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 2021.



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LAU Win, Ravi

Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit

Marine Department

Date: 29 September 2021

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	<u>2021</u> HK\$	<u>2020</u> HK\$
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Annual donations	151,000	176,000
Bank interest income	0	0
	<u>151,000</u>	<u>176,000</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Grant to The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers	140,000	160,000
Grant to Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong	14,000	16,000
Bank charges	200	200
	<u>154,200</u>	<u>176,200</u>
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(3,200)</b>	<b>(200)</b>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>34,374</b>	<b>34,574</b>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<u><b>31,174</b></u>	<u><b>34,374</b></u>

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



**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	<u>2021</u> HK\$	<u>2020</u> HK\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at bank	31,174	34,374
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>31,174</u>	<u>34,374</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES</b>	<u>31,174</u>	<u>34,374</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 29 September 2021

  
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Chairman  
( Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois )

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer  
( Ms Alice CHAU )

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES TO  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**Reporting entity**

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