

THE SEVENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE

HONG KONG

2022 – 23



**PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE**



Port Welfare Committee
(1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Chairman : Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois - Hong Kong Shipowners Association

Members : Mr CHAN Kam-foo - Hong Kong General Chamber
of Commerce

Captain Firoze Minoo MIRZA

Capt LAU Mang-tak - 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 See-yin - Marine Department (ex-officio)
(Up to 14 December 2022)

Mr NG Ngai-wing, Jammy
(From 15 December 2022)

Secretary : Ms CHIU Kwok-yi, Lisa - Marine Department (ex-officio)

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 Rebecca Holm, Port Chaplain 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 show our appreciation to Mr CHAN See-yin, ex-official member from Marine Department, for his invaluable contributions to the Committee during the 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) 2022-23 was HK\$143,500. Each year, the Committee allocates the donations to the two aforementioned seafarers' welfare agencies. In FY 2022-23, a subvention of HK\$130,000 was granted to The Mission and HK\$13,000 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 2022, vessel arrivals at the Hong Kong port amounted to more than 66 000 and the Hong Kong port handled



16.7 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs¹) of containers in the year, totaling 192 million tonnes of cargo. 138 000 cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys were reported in the year.

¹ A 20-foot container is the notional standard of “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. The Maritime and Aviation Training Fund injected more fund in 2023 to \$23.488 million up till March 2023. As at the same date, 674 young persons joined the Scheme with 284 deck cadets and 123 engineer cadets reaching the standard of Class 3 Certificate of Competency (CoC). Among the above cadets who obtained Class 3 CoC, 90 deck officers and 48 engineer officers had obtained Class 2 CoC; and 48 deck officers and 22 engineer officers had obtained Class 1 CoC. The results were both encouraging and promising.

The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers²



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 19th 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.

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

6. With the contribution of The Mission, the following article describes the meritorious work done by The Mission in FY 2022-23 –

Reaching-out services

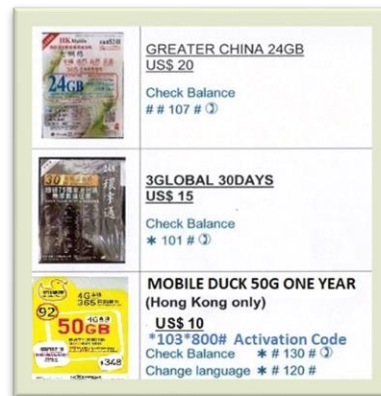
Delivery of necessities and food

7. Due to the continuation of coronavirus pandemic since 2020, seafarers were not able to get ashore and buy necessities by themselves. Isolation – which has always been a critical issue in the shipping industry – has grown out of all proportion. Under these circumstances, the roles of The Mission were greater than ever. Thanks to week to week visits to ships which only gangway visits were generally allowed, The Mission had delivered many daily necessities to seafarers on board such as toiletries, snacks and supplementary vitamins. The Mission sometimes helped distribute care packages from generous donors to seafarers as well. In FY 2022-2023, the Chaplaincy Team managed to make over 6 200 ship visits both at gangway and on board. Seafarers were very excited to receive the care packages and chocolate bars delivered by The Mission as shown in photos below.



Provision of Internet Support

8. To facilitate seafarers' communication with their families and friends, the Mission has supplied data SIM cards to seafarers onboard for them to regain contact with their close one. The demand for data SIM cards was huge during the year. Also, The Mission continued to offer help to seafarers abroad with their registration of the data SIM cards such that they can have internet access in Hong Kong.



Shuttle Service

9. A free shuttle service providing hourly transfer from the Cruise Terminal to East Tsim Sha Tsui has been established. Though the shuttle service was suspended due to the pandemic, The Mission resumed this service for any vessels call at the Cruise Terminal.



Sharing of Festive Joy

10. Seafarers are often separated from their loved one because of the nature of their occupation. Most of the time, they cannot experience the joy of festivals with their families. In this regard, the Mission delivers festive gifts to them in a hope that seafarers that are away from homes can immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.



11. In September 2022, the Mission sent out boxes of mooncakes and hoped that the seafarers abroad can try out this festive delicacy and appreciate the beauty of Chinese Traditions when they were staying in Hong Kong. During the Christmas in 2022, The Mission has also delivered over 11 000 seafarers' gift packages and 10 000 calendars. The Chaplaincy Team dressed up like Santa Claus and reindeer in the delivery of the gift packages. Seafarers were enjoying the festivities with gifts in their hands. Calendar held by the seafarer in the photo above was one of the gifts delivered by The Mission during the year. Everyone was bathed in the Holy atmosphere with contented smiles.



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.



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

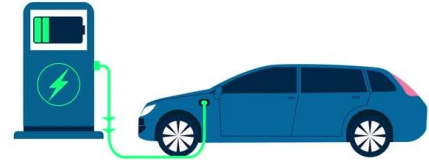


affordable welfare services to seafarers. However, the likely opening of the new centre will be delayed until probably the second quarter of 2025 due to the fire incident happened on 2 March 2023. Until then, a temporary Drop-in-Centre has been established at Wing On Plaza, East TST (Room 705). This 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.

The Environment and Sustainability

14. In response to the latest initiatives in Hong Kong, the last replacement to go for electric car of The Mission will take place in mid-2023.



15. The Mission would also plan to implement several measures in the new Mariners' Club, including striving for plastic-free in the seafarer's accommodation for a total of 75 rooms and also water dispensers in the whole building with flasks provided. Moreover, The Mission would source sustainable food for the restaurant, and print on menus the process of cooking the food.



16. In the new Mariners' Club, The Mission would install Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting to reduce energy impact. Air in the building would pass through a Nano-Confined Catalytic Oxidation treatment facility with a view to minimising airborne bacteria and viruses for guests.





Hong Kong Seafarers' Awards 2021 Ceremony

17. The Seafarers Awards are established to commend companies that have excellent welfare provided to their seafarers by conducting surveys among the seafarers. The Seafarers Awards 2021 was presented to Hong Kong Ship Manager (Fleet Management) and Hong Kong Ship Owner (Chellaram) on 20th October 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Tsim Sha Tsui. The entire ceremony was a success and all guests had an unforgettable night.



Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong³

Danske Sømands-
og Udlandskirker



Background

The Danish Seamen's Church in Hong Kong is a branch of the Danish Seamen's Church and The Danish Churches Abroad (Danske Sømands- og Udlandskirker) that is under the Protestant (Lutheran) Church. For over 40 years, the Danish Seamen's Church has sent chaplains and staff to Hong Kong for the purpose of providing church services, spiritual and welfare services to seafarers on board Danish flagged vessels. The Danish Seamen's Church is a private organization.

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 seafarers from all nationalities with anything from Christmas presents to spiritual aid.

³ <http://www.soemandskirken.org/>

18. With the contribution of The Church, the following article remarks the celebration and meritorious work done by The Church in FY 2022-23 –

“Conversations at Sea”

19. Other than face to face visits, “Conversations at Sea”, an online-chat platform project was initiated by the Danish Seamen’s and International Churches in 2021. Seafarers can contact the Church 24 hours and seven days a week by talking to different port chaplains all over the world on different shifts. This welfare feature creates another gateway for seafarers to express their difficulties and needs, reminding them that there is someone caring for them, even amidst the sea.



Funding

20. While salary of the chaplain and the assistant are paid by the Church itself, all other financial resources for the daily running costs are from private donations from Danes living in Hong Kong, Danish companies and organizations, global container logistics corporations as well as A. P. Moeller Maersk. The Church also earned some income from events like the annual Christmas bazaar.



Christmas Bazaar

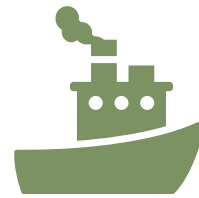
21. The Church's Christmas Bazaar was the primary way in which donors support the work of The Church. It has been and still is the single biggest social event in the calendar of the Church. It was held on 19-20 November 2022 in Kwai Chung Mariners' Club in which the Scandinavian corporations in Hong Kong were invited to contribute their good and merchandise towards tombola and lucky draws.

Small Kiosk

22. Other than the annual Christmas Bazaar, the Church also set up a kiosk in the Danish Room. A wide range of Danish goods which are typically difficult to find in Hong Kong can be bought in the kiosk, and the money earned from the kiosk are used for the operations of the welfare services. Below shows some of the products seafarers can buy at the kiosk such as coffee and cakes.



Welfare Services to seafarers



Ship visits

23. Before the vessels arrive in Hong Kong, the Church would send them emails and stand ready to offer help or assistance, if required. It can be as simple as buying some games, medicines, sim cards, nutrition supplements, electronic items, or other “daily needs”. Especially at Christmas time, the Church helped buy, wrap and deliver Christmas presents to the seafarers. After the vessel left,



the Church would keep in daily contact with many seafarers on online platforms. In 2022-23, the Church has visited 108 Danish flagged vessels.

Playgroup for children

24. A playgroup for children was set up in 2023 and is held twice a month. It is primarily for parents with children who have Danish roots. Many marriages consist of mixed nationalities in Hong Kong. In the playgroup, children who were often born and brought up in Hong Kong can learn more about Danish



traditions, eat Danish food, and learn Danish. The Church also occasionally organizes other children’s events of Danish traditions and provides church services for the kids. Photo above captured the joyful time children spent making handicraft together.



Newspapers and Books Delivery

25. Apart from provision of necessities, The Church has also, with the help of Sea Health and Welfare which is an international seafarers' welfare and assistance network, subscribed different newspapers across the world and distributed printouts to the seafarers. In supporting all seamen from different nationalities, The Church has delivered newspapers from many different countries, including Denmark, the Philippines, India, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Thailand, etc. The Church has also provided a wide range of books, from fantasy novels to fictions. Danish books and English books would also be provided. The Church would continue to collect books and DVDs from generous donors, so that the seafarers can enjoy these great literatures and films at their leisure time.

Facilities

26. The Church provides a meeting place, the 'Danish Room', in the Mariners' Club, for seafarers to gather and mingle with each other. It is a good place for relaxation and conversation where fresh coffee on the jug are provided. The Church plays an indispensable role in providing quality welfare services to the seafarers. Besides, the Church has provided church services in Mariners' Club twice a month. After the church gathering, people would have lunch together. So, it is an opportune time for visiting seafarers and join the church services to enjoy the warm fellowship time.

Future

27. In the coming year, The Church in the port of Hong Kong would like to continue to visit all Danish flagged ships and offer spiritual and material assistance to everyone on board.



List of Donors ^{Note}
Port Welfare Committee in 2022-23

1. Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Limited
2. Chellaram Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
3. Cheoy Lee Shipyards Limited
4. Gard (HK) Limited
5. Holman Fenwick Willan
6. Keesal, Young & Logan
7. K. M. Tam International Limited
8. Ruttonjee Estates Continuation Limited
9. Santana Shipping Services Limited
10. Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Company (H.K.) Limited
11. Taiship Company Limited
12. Tindall Riley (Britannia) Hong Kong Limited
13. Unique Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
14. Valles Steamship Company Limited
15. Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Limited


^{Note} The list is arranged in alphabetical order




Total donations received in 2022-23: HK\$143,500

The Committee endorsed in March 2023 the following amount of subventions be granted to the two seafarers' welfare agencies –

The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers	HK\$ 130,000
Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong	HK\$ 13,000



PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



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 2023, 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 2023.



LAU Win, Ravi

Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit

Marine Department

Date: 15 AUG 2023

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	<u>2023</u> HK\$	<u>2022</u> HK\$
RECEIPTS		
Annual donations	143,500	140,500
Bank interest income	0	0
	<u>143,500</u>	<u>140,500</u>
PAYMENTS		
Grant to The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers	130,000	130,000
Grant to Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong	13,000	13,000
Bank charges	0	200
	<u>143,000</u>	<u>143,200</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	500	(2,700)
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	28,474	31,174
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>28,974</u>	<u>28,474</u>

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

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	28,974	28,474
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>28,974</u>	<u>28,474</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
RETAINED SURPLUSES	<u>28,974</u>	<u>28,474</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



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 2023**

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.