

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 26 September 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room A
Marine Department Headquarters, 24th Floor,
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. KOO Chee-kong, Kenneth	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Captain Gur-Prasad Kohli	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Miss LEE Wai-man	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild–Hong Kong
<i>(on behalf of Captain YUEN Pong-kit)</i>		
Dr. Henry KONG	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Miss Bertha CHENG	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Mr. CHICK King-fai	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Miss Shirley LEUNG	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Miss Florence CHOW Marine Department

Absent with apologies

Mr. TSANG Man-ngai	Member	Hong Kong Seaman's Union
Mr. Simon Frank Doughty	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

The Secretary welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following members who attended the meeting for the first time:

- (a) Mr. KOO Chee-kong, Kenneth who had replaced Mr. Andrew CHEN as representative of the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association;

- (b) Captain Gur-Prasad Kohli who had replaced Captain C. A. J. Vanderperre as representative of the HK General Chamber of Commerce;
- (c) Miss LEE Wai-man who attended the meeting on behalf of Captain YUEN Pong-kit as representative of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong; and
- (d) Miss Florence CHOW who replaced Mr. Edmond WONG in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Election of the Committee Chairman

2. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chairmanship of Mr. Andrew CHEN had ended on 30 June 2008. She invited members to nominate and elect among themselves the new Chairman of the Committee before the meeting proceeded further. Mr. CHICK nominated Mr. Kenneth KOO to be the new Chairman and Captain Kohli seconded the proposal. With the unanimous consent of members, Mr. KOO was elected Chairman of the Committee.

3. Mr. KOO thanked members for their support and was very glad that he could follow the footsteps of his father to be the Chairman of the Port Welfare Committee. He expressed his commitment to the work of this Committee. Being the Chairman and member of four other advisory committees on the marine industry, he would like to take the opportunity to share some of his thoughts on the possibilities of the future cooperation between these committees and the sharing of available resources for the well-being of the local and overseas seafarers. He believed these measures could help in preserving the status of Hong Kong as one of the major ports in the world.

II. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 25 April 2008

4. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without amendment.

III. Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2008

5. The meeting noted the following financial position of the Committee for the year ending 31 March 2008 as set out on page 3 of the financial statements -

	\$
Income	162,629
Expenditure	125,150
Surplus	37,479
Surplus at the beginning of the year	235,018
Surplus at the end of the year	272,497

Members endorsed the Committee's account unanimously.

6. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed their gratitude to the Internal Auditor of the Marine Department for providing professional assistance to the Committee.

IV. Potential Donors for 2008/09

7. The Secretary had compiled a list of donors in 2007/08 and a list of potential donors for 2008/09, both of which had been circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting. Members went through the lists at the meeting.

8. Upon the Chairman's enquiry on the latest trend of donations, the Secretary clarified that probably due to the improved economic situation, there was an increase in the amount of donations collected and the Committee had received a total of \$156,200 from 53 donors in 2007-08.

9. Captain Kohli suggested the Committee to review the list of potential donors. The Chairman and the Secretary thanked Captain Kohli for his help in providing a list of potential donors to be added to the master list. The meeting agreed that the potential donors should not be confined to the shipping companies. Any person or organization that would be benefited

from the service of the port could also be invited for donations. Members were requested to inform the Secretary within two weeks from the date of the meeting if they knew of any other potential donors. The Chairman noted that the names of CEOs were missing in the potential donors' list. He undertook to check and update the list as far as possible.

10. Members noted that appeal letters for donations would be issued shortly upon finalization of the list of potential donors. Mr. CHICK pointed out that to avoid arousing negative feelings from the potential donors, the appeal letters could be issued on alternate years to those organizations which had not made donations in the previous years.

11. The Chairman considered that he might host a gathering to recognize the generosity of the donating organizations so as to build up a network for encouraging future donations. Having noted that the Annual Report for 2007/08 was the 59th annual report of the Port Welfare Committee and hence 2008/09 would be the 60th Anniversary of the Committee, members agreed to explore the Chairman's suggestion to celebrate the occasion.

(Post-meeting note : It was confirmed upon checking the records that the Port Welfare Committee was first established in 1947 and reorganized in 1949.)

12. Members shared their views on the shortage of seafarers and marine-related professionals in the maritime industry in Hong Kong. It was agreed that there was a great urgency of stepping up effective and persistent measures to address the problems, such as providing scholarships and offering placements for the University graduates to experience a career in the maritime sector, etc. The Chairman would pass members' suggestions to other advisory committees so that concerted efforts could be made to resolve the problems.

V. Draft Annual Report for 2007/08

13. A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2007/08 had been sent to members before the meeting. Members had no comments on the draft and

accepted it without amendment. Regarding the printing arrangement, the Secretary explained that over the years, the Annual Report had been printed by private companies at a cost of about \$4,000 charged against the fund of the Port Welfare Committee. As similar quality Annual Report could be produced in-house by the Committee Secretariat, the Secretary suggested to have the Report for 2007/08 printed by the Secretariat to save cost.

14. As a copy of the Annual Report would be sent to the potential donors with the appeal letter, members considered that it would be worthwhile to spend some money to make it more attractive as a PR strategy. The Secretary was requested to invite quotations and explore the additional costs involved in having the Annual Report printed with a glossy cover and colourful photos. If it was too costly to make such arrangements, members had no objection to the proposal made by the Secretary.

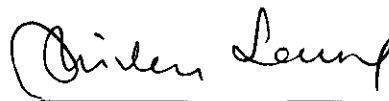
(Post-meeting note : The Secretariat had obtained quotation of around \$9,000 for printing the Report with a glossy cover and colourful photos.)

VI. Date of Next Meeting

15. The Chairman advised that the next meeting would normally be held six months later. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.



(Mr. Kenneth KOO)
Chairman



(Miss Shirley LEUNG)
Secretary

27 April 2009