

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 27 April 2009 at 2:30p.m. in Conference Room A,
24th Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. KOO Chee-kong, Kenneth	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Mr Bengt Claesson <i>(on behalf of Captain Gur-Prasad Kohli)</i>	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Captain YUEN Pong-kit	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong
Mr. TSANG Man-ngai	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Mr. CHICK King-fai	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Mr Ernest IP	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Miss Shirley LEUNG	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Ms Winnie YEUNG		Marine Department
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Absent with apologies

Mr Simon Frank Doughty	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Teresa CHOI	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following members who attended the meeting for the first time –

- (a) Mr Ernest IP who replaced Ms Bertha CHENG as representative of the Labour Department;
- (b) Mr Bengt Claesson who attended the meeting on behalf of Captain Gur-Prasad Kohli as representative of the HK General Chamber of Commerce; and
- (c) Ms Winnie YEUNG who replaced Miss Florence CHOW in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26 September 2008

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

II. Financial Position of the Committee as at 31 March 2009

3. The Secretary briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 31 March 2009 as follows-

Savings Account	\$275,280.39
Current Account	\$8.13
Fixed Deposit Account	<u>\$184,605.20</u>
Balance :	<u>\$459,893.72</u>

III. Donations received by the Committee in 2008-09

4. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donations, a total of \$186,700 had been received from 57 donors in the financial year ended 31 March 2009. The amount of donations received was \$30,500 more than that in the 2007-08 financial year. It was noted that a total of \$156,200 had been received from 53 donors in 2007-08.

5. In view of the nominal amount of donations made to the Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen and the Danish Seamen's Church in the past years, the Chairman expressed that he would top up the donation for 2008-09 by \$100,000 to provide more funding to these two organizations to enhance their services to seafarers.

IV. Allocation of Grants to Agencies

6. Taking into account the total donations received in 2008-09 and the financial difficulties faced by the Mariners' Club, the Chairman proposed and members agreed that the amount of subsidies to be granted to the following two organizations should be substantially increased and the grant would be-

The Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen	\$300,000
The Danish Seamen's Church	<u>\$30,000</u>
Total	<u>:\$330,000</u>

7. In response to Mr Claesson's enquiry, the Secretary explained that since the printing of the Committee's Annual Report for 2007-08 had been done in-house, no expense had been incurred under the "General expenses" for 2008-09 as reflected in the Summary of Income and Expenditure.

V. Any Other Business

8. The Chairman reported that to express appreciation of and gratitude to the donors for their support to the Committee, he had sponsored a cocktail reception in the name of the Committee together with the Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen on 23 April 2009 at the Mariner's Club in Tsimshatsui. It was well received. With more than 40 guests representing a comprehensive faction of the maritime community, the reception not only showcased the Mariner's Club, the opportunity was also taken by the Chairman to report on the Committee's activities, goals and vision towards enhancing Hong Kong's position as a premier International Maritime Centre.

9. The Chairman of the General Committee of the Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen, Mr. Nightingale in his welcome speech also appealed for the support of the guests to the Mariner's Club by organizing more functions in the Club. To raise more donations, the Chairman suggested to organize activities such as charity dinner or others in collaboration with other shipping associations such as the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association and the Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen to raise funds for promoting the welfare of visiting seamen. Members agreed that the terms of reference of the Committee would be reviewed in light of the current needs of the industry.

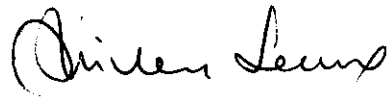
10. In response to Mr Claesson's enquiry, the Chairman confirmed that the Mariner's Club had to keep a balanced account to maintain its sustainability.

VI Date of Next Meeting

11. The Chairman advised that the next regular meeting would be held in September 2009. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.



(Mr. Kenneth KOO)
Chairman



(Miss Shirley LEUNG)
Secretary

12 October 2009