

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2010 at 3:00p.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
Captain Gur-Prasad Kohli	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mr K F CHAN <i>(on behalf of Mr Simon Frank Doughty)</i>	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mr TAM Shing-chieh <i>(on behalf of Captain YUEN Pong-kit)</i>	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong
Mr. TSANG Man-ngai	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Dr Raymond HO <i>(on behalf of Dr Thomas CHUNG)</i>	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mr Ernest IP	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Mr. CHICK King-fai	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Miss Shirley LEUNG	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Ms Winnie YEUNG	Marine Department
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The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following representatives –

- (a) Mr. K F CHAN who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr Simon Frank Doughty, representative of HK General Chamber of Commerce;
- (b) Mr TAM Shing-chieh who attended the meeting on behalf of Capt. YUEN Pong-kit, representative of Merchant Navy Officers' Guild - HK; and
- (c) Dr Raymond HO who attended the meeting on behalf of Dr Thomas CHUNG, representative of the Department of Health.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12 October 2009

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

II. Financial Position of the Committee as at 5 March 2010

3. The Secretary briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 5 March 2010 as follows-

Savings Account	\$749,473.39
Current Account	\$8.13
Fixed Deposit Account	<u>\$184,622.72</u>
Balance :	<u>\$934,104.24</u>

III. Donations received by the Committee in 2009-10

4. The Chairman reported that taking into account the three cheques received at the meeting, a total of \$809,183 had been received from 53 donors as at 22 March 2010. The amount of donations received was \$522,483 more than that in the 2008-09 financial year. It was noted that a total of \$286,700 had been received from 57 donors in 2008-09.

IV. Allocation of Grants to Agencies

5. Taking into account the total donations received so far 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	\$800,000
The Danish Seamen's Church	<u>\$80,000</u>
Total :	<u>\$880,000</u>

V. Any Other Business

Cheque Presentation Ceremony cum Drinks Reception to be held on 16 April 2010 (Fri)

6. The Secretary reported that the Committee would organise a cheque presentation ceremony cum drinks reception on 16 April 2010 to express appreciation of and gratitude to the donors for their support to the Committee. The function which would be sponsored by the Chairman would be held at the Mariner's Club in Tsimshatsui. At the function, two cheques, one of \$250,000 in the name of the K. H. Koo Charitable Foundation and the other one of \$250,000 in the name of Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Co. (HK) Ltd, would be presented to the Committee. The Chairman would accept the two cheques on behalf of the Committee. A drinks reception would follow. The guest lists of the function were being drawn up for the consideration of the Chairman.

7. Captain Kohli supported the proposed function and expressed that media coverage of the event was essential for the purpose. He further proposed to include three guests i.e. Messrs Peter Cremers, Rajaish Bajpae and Rob Grool in the invitation list.

8. The meeting also agreed that the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen should give a detailed report of its accomplishments with photos in the next issue of the Annual Report of the Committee.

Establishment of an Emergency Fund

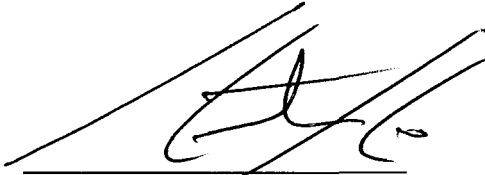
9. On behalf of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong, Mr Tam tabled a paper entitled "Proposal of the establishment of the Emergency Fund" (attached) at the meeting. According to Mr Tam, the Fund was proposed to be set up under the Committee. The purpose of the Fund was to provide physical assistance to the seafarers being detained or abandoned in Hong Kong. The Fund would not relieve the shipowners from their obligations to take care of the seafarers but would be used as a last resort.

10. Mr Tam pointed out that 2010 had been dedicated by the International Maritime Organisation as the "Year of the Seafarers" and the setting up of the Fund would promote the image of Hong Kong. He further explained that the Fund would be charitable in nature and donors would be asked specifically to make donations to the Fund as distinguished from the usual donations they would make to the Committee. The introduction of the Fund would in effect change the role of the Committee from administrative to executive. In response, the Secretary explained that the allocation of grants received by the Committee should be restricted to cover the social and recreational welfare of seafarers in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference. Under the existing accounting arrangement, it would be difficult to disburse the grants collected by the Committee on an occasional basis.

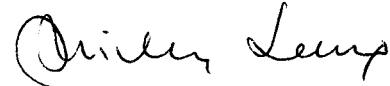
11. Mr Chick commented that with the coming into force of the Marine Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, all seafarers would be protected by mandatory insurance scheme under the new convention. He further remarked that ships that were not able to produce such insurance policies would not be allowed to enter Hong Kong waters. Furthermore, special ad hoc allocation might be made by the Committee to the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen for the purpose of helping those seafarers detained or abandoned in Hong Kong without having to resort to the setting up of an Emergency Fund. After deliberation, the Chairman agreed that the Committee should give further consideration to the proposal while other relevant committees should also consider the proposal. Accordingly he would bring up the issue at the forthcoming General Committee Meeting of the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen and the next meeting of the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association. Captain Kohli also undertook to bring up the issue for the consideration of the HK General Chamber of Commerce.

VI Date of Next Meeting

12. The Chairman advised that the next regular meeting of the Committee would be held in September 2010. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.



(Mr. Kenneth KOO)
Chairman



(Miss Shirley LEUNG)
Secretary

15 October 2010