

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 20 September 2011 at 9:45 a.m. in VIP Room
Marine Department Headquarters, 24th Floor,
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Mr. Dickson Chin	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce <i>(on behalf of Mr. Simon Frank Doughty)</i>
Captain Narayanan Biju	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce <i>(on behalf of Captain Umesh Lulla)</i>
Ms. Yip Yan-pik	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Captain Tang Wai-tong	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild–Hong Kong
Ms. Melody Luk	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. Selena Bin Marine Department

Absent with apologies

Dr. Thomas Chung Member Department of Health

The Secretary welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following persons :

- (a) Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley who had replaced Mr. Kenneth Koo as representative of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association;
- (b) Mr. Dickson Chin who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Simon Frank Doughty, representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce;
- (c) Captain Narayanan Biju who attended the meeting on behalf of Captain Umesh Lulla, representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce;
- (d) Ms. Yip Yan-pik who had replaced Mr. Tsang Man-ngai as representative of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union;
- (e) Captain Tang Wai-tong who had replaced Captain Yuen Pong-kit as representative of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong;
- (f) Ms. Melody Luk of the Labour Department who attended the meeting as an ex-officio member;
- (g) Mr. Chick King-fai of the Marine Department who attended the meeting as an ex-officio member; and
- (h) Ms. Selena Bin of the Marine Department who was in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Election of the Committee Chairman

2. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chairmanship of Mr. Kenneth Koo had ended on 30 June 2011. She invited members to nominate and elect among themselves the new Chairman of the Committee before the meeting proceeded further. Mr. Chick nominated Mr. Huxley to be the new Chairman and Mr. Chin seconded the proposal. With the unanimous consent of members, Mr. Huxley was elected Chairman of the Committee.

3. Mr. Huxley thanked members for their support. He extended his gratitude to Mr Koo who had shown genuine concern and made generous donations to the Committee in supporting the welfare of the visiting seafarers. He was very glad that he could follow the footsteps of Mr. Koo to be the Chairman of the Port Welfare Committee. He noted the importance of the Committee in catering for the social and recreational welfare of the seafarers visiting Hong Kong and those temporarily residing here. This could help in preserving the status of Hong Kong as one of the major ports in the world. He expressed his commitment to the work of the Committee. He shared with members his aspirations to expand the database of the potential donors and increase the amount of donations this year.

II. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 22 March 2011

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

III. Discussion Items

(a) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2011 (Appendix A)

5. The meeting noted the following financial position of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2011 as set out on page 2 of the financial statement which had been circulated to members before the meeting –

	\$
Income	615,705
Expenditure	583,000
Surplus	32,705
Surplus at the beginning of the year	159,107
Surplus at the end of the year	191,812

Members endorsed the Committee's account unanimously.

6. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Marine Department's Internal Auditor had served as the Honorary Auditor for the Committee since 2007. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed

appreciation of the Internal Auditor's professional assistance given to the Committee.

(b) **Potential Donors for 2011-2012 (Appendices B & C)**

7. The Secretary had compiled a list of the recommended donors (donors who had made donations to the Committee in 2010-2011) and a list of potential donors for 2011-2012, both of which had been circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting. She further elaborated that the recommended donor list at Appendix B had included the individuals and companies which had made donations to the Committee in 2010-2011 and it was recommended that the Committee continued to appeal to them for donations in 2011-2012. The list at Appendix C included other potential donors to whom the Committee could appeal for support this year.

8. The Chairman considered that the lists should be updated to include new shipping companies and remove the obsolete ones. He reiterated the importance of keeping an updated potential donor list as it was the primary source where donations came from. He suggested that the Committee should review the lists of recommended and potential donors with a view to updating the lists as far as practicable. As the appeal letter to potential donors would be issued in November, members were requested to let the Secretary have the proposed additions and/or deletions to the lists by early October.

9. The Chairman asked whether the donations to the Committee were tax deductible. The Secretary replied that it was stated in the official receipts of the donations issued by the Committee to the donors that they were "Tax Deductible Receipts".

(Post-meeting note: The Port Welfare Committee has been included as one of the charitable institutions and trusts of a public character, which are exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, since 27 July 1961. Members of the public who make a donation of money to the Committee will qualify for a tax deduction.)

(c) **Draft Annual Report for 2010-2011 (Appendix D)**

10. The Secretary reported that a copy of the draft Annual Report for 2010-2011 had been sent to members before the meeting. The Annual

Report would be sent to the potential donors to appeal for their donations which would mainly be used for supporting the two voluntary agencies, namely the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen and the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong. The appeal letter would be issued in the name of the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

11. The Chairman invited members' comments on the draft annual report. Mr. Chick said that as each potential donor would be given a copy of the Annual Report, it was important that the two voluntary agencies would include a more detailed account of their work and achievements in the report with a view to impressing upon the potential donors on the need to support this very worthy cause in providing social and recreational welfare for the seafarers visiting Hong Kong and those temporarily residing in Hong Kong. The Chairman agreed that the more the potential donors know about the work of the two voluntary agencies supported by the Committee, the more they would contribute to show support for this worthy cause. The Secretary would request the two voluntary agencies to beef up their work and achievements for inclusion in the Annual Report.

12. Regarding the printing arrangement, the Secretary proposed to continue with the printing of the Committee's Annual Report for 2010-2011 in-house in order to save the Committee's funds for other uses. Members agreed with the Secretary's proposal.

IV. Any Other Business

Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club

13. Ms Yip informed members that she had recently attended a meeting of the General Committee of the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen and understood that there was a redevelopment proposal of the Mariners' Club at Tsim Sha Tsui. Tenders had been issued to invite bids from the developers and the result would be made available later this year. She added that the land premium might be of an issue. Mr. Chick supplemented his understanding of the issue that the deduction of land premium would be on the part relating to seafarers only and there should be no reduction of land premium on the commercial aspect. Mr. Chin raised concern that a temporary reprovisioning site for the Mariners' Club was absolutely necessary for continuing its service provided to seafarers during the interim redevelopment period. As the redevelopment project would

directly affect the social and recreational welfare of visiting seafarers and those temporarily living in Hong Kong, the Chairman undertook to find out more information regarding the project from Mr. Anthony Nightingale, Chairman of the General Committee of the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen.


Raising the Profile of the Committee

14. The Chairman mentioned that the Sailors' Society, an international charity, had been very successful in its fund raising campaigns. Consideration should be given to raise the profile and image of the Port Welfare Committee with an aim to raising the level of funding support from potential donors. Cocktail receptions might be arranged to build up a closer tie with the companies in the maritime industry. Mr. Chick said that in the regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, the Port Welfare Committee did not seem to appear on their agenda. The Chairman said that while the Port Welfare Committee and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association were two different entities, it would be useful to raise the profile and image of the Port Welfare Committee among the members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association. He would explore what could be done to this end.

V. Date of Next Meeting

15. The Chairman advised that the next meeting would normally be held in six months' time. The Secretary suggested that the next meeting be held in March 2012 and she would inform members of the details in due course.

16. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



(Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley)
Chairman



(Miss Shirley Leung)
Secretary