

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following persons –

- (a) Mr. Simon Buhelt Frank who had replaced Mr. Simon Frank Doughty as representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce;
- (b) Dr. Edwin Tsui Lok-kin who had replaced Dr. Chung Wai-hung as an ex-officio member of the Department of Health;
- (c) Mr. Wong Sai-fat who had replaced Mr. Chick King-fai as an ex-officio member of the Marine Department;
- (d) Captain Biju Narayanan who attended the meeting on behalf of Captain Umesh Lulla as representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce; and
- (e) Ms. Christine But who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms. Luk Wai-ling as representative of the Labour Department.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 20 September 2011

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

II. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20 September 2011

(a) Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club

3. The Chairman said that he had not heard of any further progress from Mr. Kenneth Koo regarding the redevelopment proposal of the Mariners' Club at Tsim Sha Tsui. Nonetheless, he had recently received an invitation from Mr. Anthony Nightingale, Chairman of the General Committee of The Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen (The Mission) inviting him to attend the next General Committee meeting of The Mission on 4 June 2012. After learning more about the redevelopment project at that meeting, he would keep members informed of the latest development.

4. Ms. Yip informed the meeting that The Mission had encountered some difficulties in obtaining policy support for the redevelopment proposal from Ms. Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing (STH). The Mission planned to lobby support from the Hon. Miriam Lau, Legislative Council Member representing the functional constituency of Transport, to assist in seeking policy support from STH.

5. Captain Tang added that the main concern of the redevelopment proposal was the land premium. There were tenderers interested in the redevelopment proposal. However, the land premium would only be reduced for the part relating to seafarers, and not for the commercial aspect. Under the redevelopment proposal, the floor area of the commercial development of a hotel would be about 20 000 m² while the floor area of the Mariners' Club would be reduced from the current 8 000 m² to 3 500 m², representing a substantial cut by over 50%. In addition, during the redevelopment period, no temporary reprovisioning site would be provided for the visiting seafarers.

6. Ms. Yip supplemented that at The Mission's General Committee meeting on 19 March 2012, the Far East Co. Ltd. had promised to provide an additional 1 000 m² to the Mariners' Club, making a total of 4 500 m². The number of rooms would be maintained more or less the same, which was about 70. The Hong Kong Seamen's Union had expressed to the Mission that it insisted in maintaining a decent conference room while other facilities such as the swimming pool and the bowling lanes might be given up. The Mission and Mr. Kenneth Koo would continue the lobbying work with the Hon Miriam Lau and STH. The Chairman might also join in the lobbying work. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Ms. Yip said that the occupancy rate of the Mariners' Club was about 70% and the situation was improving. Captain Tang added that the room rate was cheaper than that of other hotels in Tsim Sha Tsui. The Chairman summed up that the primary concern of the Committee was that the social and recreational welfare for seamen visiting Hong Kong should not be undermined by the redevelopment project.

7. The Chairman committed to ensure that the concerns of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union and the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong would be relayed to The Mission. He would discuss the matter with Mr. Kenneth Koo. In addition, he would bring up the issue for discussion at the General Committee meeting of The Mission to be held on 4 June 2012.

(b) Raising the Profile of the Committee

8. The Chairman said that the donations this year were on the low side. The reason might be attributed to a large-scale and spectacular fundraising dinner organized by the Sailors' Society in late February 2012 which had solicited substantial donations amounting to \$700,000 from the shipping industry. As a substantial amount of the donations had been diverted to the Sailors' Society, it was difficult for the Committee to stage a fundraising event in the near future. It was considered that the Committee should not compromise its resources on an event which did not guarantee a reasonable level of return. As the donations to the Committee were charitable donations for the social and recreational welfare of the visiting seamen, the Committee had to be very cautious in the use of the donations. The Chairman considered that an important issue was how the Committee was perceived by the shipping industry. He had made efforts to promote and raise the profile of the Committee in his contacts with the shipping industry. He had also talked regularly to the shipowners and was now fixing up a meeting with the Chaplain of The Mission. He invited members to give more thoughts to this matter and let him have their views as to how they would like the Committee to be perceived and any suggestions to raise the profile of the Committee.

III. Financial Position of the Committee as at 22 March 2012

9. The Secretary briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 22 March 2012 as follows-

Savings Account	\$449,606.88
Current Account	\$ 75,008.13
Balance :	<u>\$524,615.01</u>

IV. Donations Received by the Committee in 2011-12 (Appendix B)

10. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donations for 2011-12, a total of \$130,800 had been received from 38 donors as at 29 February 2012. Up till the morning of 22 March 2012, additional donations of \$202,000 had been received. Among these additional donations, the Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Co (HK) Ltd and the K H Koo Foundation Co Ltd had each donated \$100,000. The Committee appreciated the support from Mr. Koo. The total amount of donations

received was \$332,800 from 41 donors as at 22 March 2012. Compared with the donations of \$524,300 received from 52 donors last year, this year's donations were \$191,500 less.

V. Allocation of Grants to Agencies (Appendix C)

11. The Secretary said that she had sent an email to members on 1 March 2012 informing members that as at 29 February 2012, the amount of donations received was \$130,800. It was then proposed to allocate \$120,000 and \$12,000 to The Mission and The Danish Seamen's Church respectively. As additional donations of \$202,000 had now been received, bringing the total amount of donations to 332,800, the proposed grants to the two agencies should be increased accordingly.

12. Taking into account the donations received in 2011-12, the Chairman proposed and members agreed that the amount of subsidies to be granted to the following two organizations in 2011-12 would be :

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

13. As a result, barring further donations which might be received by the Committee after 22 March 2012, a sum of \$194,615 would be left for emergency situations such as catering for the relief of distressed seafarers unfortunately abandoned or detained in Hong Kong in case such a need arose.

VI. Use of iPad2 in Future PWC Meetings

14. To pursue the Government's paperless meeting initiatives, the meeting agreed to use iPad2 in future PWC meetings.

VII. Any Other Business

Events to be Organized

15. Captain Tang asked whether the Committee would organize any functions this year. The Chairman replied that as the Sailors' Society had just organized a fundraising dinner in late February this year and attracted a

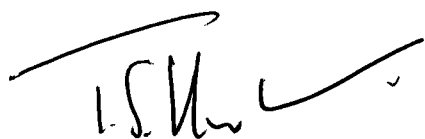
substantial amount of donations from the shipping industry, it might not be opportune for the Committee to organize any fundraising events in the near future. Nonetheless, the Chairman suggested an idea of organizing a fundraising Lunar New Year Party in the new Maritime Museum to be opened in January 2013. The Chairman informed the meeting that the existing Maritime Museum in Stanley would be relocated to Pier 8 in Central. The new Maritime Museum would be a spectacular venue and would appeal to the shipping community if the Committee held an event there in the first few months of its opening. Taking the opportunity of a meeting with the Chaplain of The Mission soon, he would discuss the matter with the Chaplain to see whether he had any better ideas in this respect.

16. The Secretary reported for members' information that for the charity dinner with auction held in the Maritime Awareness Week on 28 October 2010, 10 companies had sponsored 12 tables and all the 12 items of maritime memorabilia had been auctioned off. The donations received from the charity dinner with auction were \$91,400 and the expenses for the dinner were \$33,000. Hence the net profit was \$58,400. She added that two cocktail receptions and a cheque presentation ceremony cum drinks reception sponsored by the former Chairman had been organized in 2009, 2010 and 2011 to express appreciation to the donors for their generosity in contributing to Hong Kong's port welfare endeavours through their continued donations to the Committee.

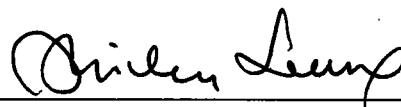
VIII. Date of Next Meeting

17. The Chairman advised that the next regular meeting of the Committee would be held around 20 September 2012. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.

18. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



(Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley)
Chairman



(Miss Shirley Leung)
Secretary

21 September 2012