

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
Held on 26 March 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room A,
24th Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Mr. Simon Buhelt Frank	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Captain Umesh Lulla	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Serina Lee <i>(on behalf of Capt. Tang Wai-tong)</i>	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong
Ms. Emma Chiu <i>(on behalf of Mr. Yang Kaiqiang)</i>	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Mr. Bryan Pak <i>(on behalf of Ms. Esther Chan)</i>	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Dr. Manny Lam <i>(on behalf of Dr. Edwin Tsui)</i>	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mr. Wong Sai-fat	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Mr. Jack MF Chan	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Ms. Selena Bin	Marine Department
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The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following persons –

- (a) Ms. Serina Lee who attended the meeting on behalf of Capt. Tang Wai-tong as representative of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong;
- (b) Ms. Emma Chiu who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Yang Kaiqiang as representative of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union;
- (c) Mr. Bryan Pak who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms. Esther Chan as representative of the Labour Department; and
- (d) Dr. Manny Lam who attended the meeting on behalf of Dr. Edwin Tsui, as representative of the Department of Health.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 27 September 2013

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

II. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 27 September 2013

(a) Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club

3. The Chairman said that agreement had been reached among parties concerned regarding the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club. The Transport and Housing Bureau would submit a redevelopment proposal of the Mariners' Club to the Executive Council. It was expected a lead time of at least 18 months was required before everything was sorted out. The Chairman added that the usage of the Mariners' Club had recently gone up.

(b) Donors' Lists

4. The Chairman mentioned that he had invited members to propose amendments or additional entries to the Recommended and Potential Donors' Lists at the last meeting. There were now 251 entries on the finalized Donors' Lists. He reiterated the importance in keeping the Donors' Lists up-to-date.

(c) **Appeal Letter and Annual Report for 2012-13**

5. The Chairman informed members that the appeal letter and the annual report 2012-13 were sent to 251 recommended and potential donors on 16 December 2013.

III. Financial Position of the Committee as at 20 March 2014

6. The Chairman briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 20 March 2014 as follows-

Savings Account	\$550,985
Current Account	\$ 34,885
Balance :	<u>\$585,870</u>

IV. Donations Received by the Committee as at 20 March 2014 (Appendix B)

7. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donations for 2013-14, a total of \$402,345 had been received from 38 donors as at 20 March 2014. Compared with the donations of \$374,200 received from 41 donors last year, this year's donations were \$28,145 more.

8. However, there was a drop of three donors this year as compared with 41 donors last year. This might be attributed to The Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen (The Mission) organizing a Gala Dinner in November 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The Mission. This was a large-scale fundraising dinner with auction and it had successfully raised \$1.4 million which contributed to 20% of the expenditure of the new Mariners' Club launch. The Chairman had attended the dinner and raised the profile of the Port Welfare Committee among the shipping community. The Mission would organize a fundraising dinner again in November this year.

V. Allocation of Grants to Agencies (Appendix C)

9. Taking into account the increase in donations received this year, the Chairman proposed and members agreed that the amount of subsidies to be granted to the following two organizations in 2013-14 would be :

The Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen	\$400,000
The Danish Seamen's Church	\$ 40,000
Total :	<u>\$440,000</u>

10. As a result, an amount of \$145,870 would be reserved for contingency such as catering for the relief of distressed seafarers who were unfortunately abandoned or detained in Hong Kong in case such a need arose.

VI. Any Other Business

(a) Role of Seafarer Organisations in Hong Kong

11. The Chairman said that the situation in the shipping industry was improving and there were less visiting ships under arrest. Nonetheless, as there was a trend that the ships stayed in Hong Kong for a shorter period, the chaplains were facing heavy workload as more ship visits had to be arranged to provide welfare support to the ships' crews. Their scope of duties might have to be expanded when the new Mariners' Club launch was ready by late 2014 or early 2015.

(b) Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

12. The Chairman said that there would be a big change of the Hong Kong harbour when the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal was operated in its full swing. Nonetheless, there was no recreational facility at the terminal. The Mission was exploring ways in which it could serve the seafarers on board the largest of the world's cruise liners which would call in Hong Kong. They had also explored the possibility of having a drop in centre at the terminal. Mr. Frank said that it would be desirable to request for allocation of space now while the terminal was under-utilized. The Chairman said that, otherwise, the cruise liners might have to contact the terminal operator to explore whether a means of access to the Mariners' Club at Tsim Sha Tsui could be provided.

(c) **Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

13. Mr. Wong asked whether the Hong Kong Maritime Museum would offer free admission for the public in a particular day of the week. The Chairman replied that the Hong Kong Maritime Museum only offered free admission to members of the industry. Mr. Wong said that the International Maritime Organization's Day of the Seafarer would be organized in June 2014. Some students of the Maritime Services Training Institute and Polytechnic University would serve as volunteered workers. He was exploring whether opportunity could be taken to offer a free visit to the museum for these students to promote seafarers as a career. The Chairman said that he would seek the views of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

14. The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in September 2014. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.

15. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

No signature on website copy

(Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley)

Chairman

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(Mr. Jack MF Chan)

Secretary

25 September 2014