

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
Held on 25 March 2015 at 3:15 p.m. in Conference Room B,
22nd Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Captain Umesh Lulla	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Serina Lee (<i>on behalf of Mr. Michael Marques</i>)	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild-Hong Kong
Ms. Emma Chiu	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Ms. Esther Chan	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Dr. Lau Ming-ho (<i>on behalf of Dr. Edwin Tsui</i>)	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Dr. Stephen Li	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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Absent with apologies

Mr. Fared Ahamad Khan	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
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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 Mr. Michael Marques as representative of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild - Hong Kong; and
- (b) Dr. Lau Ming-ho who attended the meeting on behalf of Dr. Edwin Tsui as representative of the Department of Health.

2. The Chairman also informed members that due to the resignation of Mr. Simon Buhelt Frank, Mr. Fared Ahamad Khan had replaced Mr. Frank as representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25 September 2014

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

II. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25 September 2014

(a) Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club

4. The Chairman said that there was no significant development regarding the redevelopment project. It was noted that the usage of the Mariners' Club had increased. He would keep members informed if there was any significant progress.

(b) Role of Seafarer Organisations in Hong Kong

5. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen (the Missions) had held its Annual Maritime Charity Dinner on 13 November 2014 to raise fund for the replacement launch. The dinner was attended by the shipping and maritime communities. The event had raised the profile of seafarers and the continued important role of the maritime industry to Hong Kong. The event had successfully raised a substantial amount of fund as well as the awareness on seafarers' welfare.

The new Mariners' Club launch had already been put into operation. The Chairman added that the Missions was active in promoting the profile of seafarers. Rev. Stephen Miller had attended a programme of the Radio Hong Kong with the theme about the secret life of the harbour, focusing on the work of the Missions to seafarers.

(c) **Kai Tak Cruise Terminal**

6. Regarding the possibility of providing a means of access from the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to the Mariners' Club at Tsim Sha Tsui, the Chairman said that there was not much progress at the moment as the number of port calls had not yet been sufficient to justify the provision. It was hoped that with more port calls in the future, more recreational facilities could be provided for the seafarers visiting Hong Kong.

(d) **Donors' Lists**

7. 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. As a result, two entries had been deleted and there was now a total of 245 entries on the finalized Donors' Lists. He reiterated the importance in keeping the Donors' Lists up-to-date.

(e) **Appeal Letter and Annual Report for 2013-14**

8. The Chairman informed members that the appeal letters for donation and the annual report 2013-14 had been sent to 245 recommended and potential donors on 17 December 2014.

III. Financial Position of the Committee as at 11 March 2015

9. The Chairman briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 11 March 2015 as follows-

Savings Account	\$490,372
Current Account	\$ 25,000
Balance :	<u>\$515,372</u>

10. The Chairman said that the Marine Department's Treasury

Accountant/Internal Audit had served as the Honorary Auditor for the Committee. He proposed and members agreed to the re-appointment of the Marine Department's Treasury Accountant/Internal Auditor as the Honorary Auditor of the Committee for 2015-16. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed appreciation of the Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit's professional assistance given to the Committee.

IV. Donations Received by the Committee as at 11 March 2015
(Appendix B)

11. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donation for 2014-15, a total of \$369,700 had been received from 36 donors as at 11 March 2015. Compared with the donation of \$402,345 received from 38 donors last year, this year's donation was \$32,645 less than that of 2013-14.

12. Nonetheless, the Chairman was of the view that although there was a drop of the donation by \$32,645 this year as compared with that of last year, the total donation to the shipping community had actually gone up considerably. The Mission's Annual Maritime Charity Dinner held on 13 November 2014 had attracted a substantial amount of fund from the shipping community for the welfare of the seafarers visiting Hong Kong.

V. Allocation of Grants to Agencies (Appendix C)

13. The Chairman informed members that an amount of \$400,000 and \$40,000 had been granted to the Missions and the Danish Seamen's Church respectively last year. Two options of allocation of grants to the two agencies this year were proposed for members' consideration. As there was a drop in donation received this year, option A proposed a grant of \$350,000 and \$35,000 to the two agencies respectively, leaving a reserved fund of \$130,372. Option B proposed a grant of \$400,000 and \$40,000, which were the same amount of donation last year, to the two agencies respectively, leaving a reserved fund of \$75,372. The Chairman considered that as it was anticipated that there would not be any specific use of the reserved fund in the near future and the donation to the two agencies helped improving the provision of social and recreational welfare of seafarers, he proposed and members agreed that the amount of subsidies to be granted to the following two agencies in 2014-15 would remain the same as that of last year as set out below :

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

14. After the allocation of grants, an amount of \$75,372 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) Hong Kong Maritime Museum

15. Ms. Chiu would like to know the current position regarding the free admission to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum for the student volunteered workers of the International Maritime Organization's Day of the Seafarer as the annual event would soon be organized in June this year. The Chairman remarked that the Hong Kong Maritime Museum would hold a meeting in the third week of April and he would let Ms. Chiu know the latest position after that meeting.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

16. The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in September 2015. The Secretary would inform members of the details in due course.

17. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

No signature on website copy

(Mr. Timothy Scott Huxley)

Chairman

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(Mr. Jack MF Chan)

Secretary

25 September 2015