

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 27 March 2017 at 4:00 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 Fared Ahamad Khan	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Captain Umesh Lulla	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mr Michael Marques	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild - Hong Kong
Ms Emma Chiu	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Ms Grace Chan	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Dr Allen Chan (<i>on behalf of Dr Raymond Ho</i>)	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mr Choi Chi-chuen	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Ms Fausta Ng	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Ms Shirley Chow	Marine Department
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WELCOMING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the following persons who attended the meeting for the first time -

- (a) Ms Fausta Ng who had replaced Mr Jack Chan as Secretary of the Committee; and
- (b) Ms Grace Chan who had replaced Ms Esther Chan as representative of the Labour Department.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 27 September 2016 (Appendix A)

2. The minutes of the last meeting were circulated to Members for comments in November 2016 and confirmed before the meeting.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club

3. The Chairman briefed the meeting that the redevelopment project of the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui was undergoing a tender exercise at the moment and the Mission to Seafarers would follow up with the necessary work. Mr Marques of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild - Hong Kong raised that there had been concern about the arrangement for the staff in Mariners' Club arising from the redevelopment project. The Chairman said that the staff might be temporarily deployed to the Kwai Chung Club before a longer term plan was worked out.

(b) Savings account of the Committee

4. The Chairman informed Members that the Committee's savings account in HSBC was closed on 21 February 2017 pursuant to the agreement in the last meeting.

III. Financial Position of the Committee as at 7 March 2017

5. The Chairman briefed Members on the financial position of the Committee as at 7 March 2017 as follows -

Current Account : \$186,484

6. Besides, the Chairman proposed and Members agreed that Marine Department's Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit be re-appointed as the Honorary Auditor of the Committee for 2017-18. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed appreciation of the professional assistance rendered by Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit to the Committee.

IV. Donations Received by the Committee as at 7 March 2017 (Appendix B)

7. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donation for 2016-17, a total amount of \$158,300 had been received from 25 donors as at 7 March 2017. Compared with the donation of \$338,900 received from 30 donors for 2015-16, this year's donation was \$180,600 less.

8. The Chairman noted that 2016 saw a less promising year for the shipping industry which partly explained the drop of donation as compared with the previous year. Besides, the Annual Maritime Charity Dinner held by the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen had attracted a substantial amount of fund from the shipping community to be channeled for the welfare of seafarers visiting Hong Kong. Nonetheless, he considered that with the concerted efforts of various parties, the awareness of seafarers' welfare had been successfully raised in Hong Kong and other countries.

V. Allocation of Grants to Agencies (Appendix C)

9. Based on the donations received in 2016-17, the Chairman proposed and Members agreed that the following amount of subsidies be granted to the two agencies -

The Sailors' Home & Missions to Seamen	\$140,000
The Danish Seamen's Church	\$ 14,000
Total :	<u>\$154,000</u>

10. The meeting noted that \$32,484 would be reserved for meeting the necessary bank charges and other contingency.

(Post meeting note: The Secretariat received an additional sum of \$5,000 from the Star Cruises (HK) Limited on 29 March 2017. The donation would be deposited to the Committee's bank account as reserve.)

VI. Any Other Business

(a) Celebration Events for the International Maritime Organisation's Day of the Seafarers

11. Ms Emma Chiu of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union informed the meeting that a series of events would be organised to celebrate the Seafarers Day.

(b) Zika Virus Infection

12. Dr Allen Chan of the Department of Health (DH) informed the meeting that the latest information on Zika virus infection and other overseas outbreaks including yellow fever in Brazil and avian influenza in Mainland China was available on DH's website. He would provide the relevant materials for Members' information and further dissemination after the meeting as appropriate.

[Post meeting note: Dr Chan provided the link <http://www.travelhealth.gov.hk> for Members' information on 30 March 2017.]

(c) Expiry of the current term of the Committee

13. The Chairman informed the meeting that the current term of the Committee would expire on 30 June 2017. He expressed his gratitude to all Members and the Secretariat for their support to the work of the Committee in the past years. The Secretary supplemented that the next

term would run from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020. The appointment exercise of non-official Members of the Committee would commence soon.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

14. The Chairman said that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in September 2017. The Secretary would inform Members of the details in due course.

15. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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(Mr Timothy Scott Huxley)

Chairman

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(Ms Fausta Ng)

Secretary

Port Welfare Committee

2 May 2017