

## PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting  
held on 29 September 2021 at 3:00 p.m.  
in Conference Room A, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

### **Present**

Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Mr CHAN Kam-foo	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Capt Firoze Minoo MIRZA	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Capt LAU Mang-tak	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong
Mr LIAO Bowen	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Ms YIP Wing-sze, Ceci <i>(on behalf of Miss KAM Wing-yin, Gloria)</i>	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Dr LAU Ming-ho <i>(on behalf of Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong)</i>	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mr CHAN Ming-yau	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Ms Lisa CHIU	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

### **In attendance**

Ms Jessica LAM	Marine Department
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## **OPENING REMARKS**

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

- (a) Captain LAU Mang-tak, who replaced Mr CHAN Wai-leung, as the institutional representative of the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild - Hong Kong;
- (b) Captain Firoze Minoo MIRZA, who attended the meeting for the first time, as the representative of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce;
- (c) Ms YIP Wing-sze, Ceci, who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms KAM Wing-yin Gloria, as the representative of the Labour Department; and
- (d) Dr LAU Ming-ho, who attended the meeting on behalf of Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong, as the representative of the Department of Health.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26 March 2021**

2. The Chairman informed Members that the minutes of the last meeting (Appendix A of the agenda) were circulated to Members for comments in August 2021 and no amendment was received. The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **II. Declaration of Interests**

3. The Secretary referred Members to the extract of notes of the Committee meeting held on 13 September 2002 and PWC Paper No.1/2002 "Declaration of Interests by Members of the PWC" at Appendix B of the agenda. She briefed the new Member and reminded others that since 2002, the Committee had adopted a one-tier system for declaration of interests

whereby the Chairman/a Member was required to disclose his/her interest at the meeting when he/she considered that there was a potential conflict of interest in a matter placed before the Committee. All cases of declaration of interests should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Members noted the one-tier declaration of interests system.

### **III. Discussion Items**

#### **(a) Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021**

4. The meeting noted the following financial position of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2021 as set out on page 2 of the financial statement at Appendix C of the agenda which had been circulated to Members before the meeting –

	<u>HK\$</u>
Income	151,000
Expenditure	<u>154,200</u>
Deficit	(3,200)
Surplus at the beginning of the year (i.e. 1 April 2020)	<u>34,374</u>
Surplus at the end of the year (i.e. 31 March 2021)	31,174

5. Members endorsed the Committee's account unanimously. The financial statement was signed by the Chairman.

#### **(b) Potential Donors for 2021-2022**

6. The Chairman said that a list of recommended donors and a list of potential donors for 2021-22 had been circulated to Members together with the agenda of the meeting. He elaborated that the recommended donor list at Appendix D had included organisations/companies which had made donations to the Committee in 2020-21 and recommended the Committee to continue to appeal for their donations in 2021-22. The list at Appendix E included other potential donors to whom the Committee could appeal for support this year. With regard to one of the duties of the Committee in fund raising, he invited all Members to review the donor lists and identify more interested parties to appeal for donations. The Secretary reminded Members to advise the Secretariat of their suggestions on the donor lists, if any, after the meeting.

(c) **Draft Annual Report for 2020-2021**

7. The Chairman said that a copy of the draft Annual Report for 2020-21 had been sent to Members before the meeting and invited Members to refer to Appendix F of the agenda. The Secretary briefly introduced the content of the Report to Members. The Report, among others, had given a detailed account of the work carried out by the two voluntary agencies, namely the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen and the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong, during this hard time when the maritime industry and the seafarers had been greatly affected by the pandemic. The Annual Report would be sent to the potential donors together with the appeal letters inviting for donations, which would be issued by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

8. The Chairman expressed that the two agencies had performed a good job in supporting the seafarers during this pandemic which would unlikely be ended shortly. He considered that the Committee should continue to raise funds to support the agencies. The Chairman then invited Members' comments on the draft Annual Report. Members confirmed that they had no further comment on the draft Annual Report

**IV. Any Other Business**

9. The Chairman expressed that during this hard time, the seafarers would need greater support and invited views of Members.

10. Captain Mirza raised the issue on crew change, which had been implemented with stringent requirements, and appealed for measures to facilitate.

11. The Chairman advised that the same issue had been discussed in the meeting held in September 2020 and the request had been raised with the Government. The Secretary said that further views of the Committee on the issue could be conveyed to the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB).

12. After deliberation, it was agreed that the Secretary would arrange a draft for submitting to the THB to express the concern of the Committee regarding the welfare of the seafarers in relation to the crew change arrangement.

**V. Date of Next Meeting**

13. The Secretary said that the next meeting would be held in six months' time, i.e. around March 2022. Members would be informed of the date and details in due course.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:40 p.m.

No signature on website copy  
(Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois)  
Chairman

No signature on website copy  
(Ms Lisa CHIU)  
Secretary

**The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 31 March 2022.**

Port Welfare Committee  
November 2021