

# PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Notes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting  
held on 13 September 2002 at 3:00p.m. in Conference Room A,  
Marine Department Headquarters, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

## Present

Mr. CHAO Sze-kwong, George	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Mr. P.B. Subbiah (on behalf of Captain C.A.J. Vanderperre)	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Dr. K.K. Sharma (on behalf of Mr. Rajaish Bajpae)	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Captain HO Kai-hung	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Mr. POON Chi-kwok	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Dr. P.L. MA	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mrs. SIU HO Kar-yuk, Clare	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)
Mr. SO Ping-chi	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Miss CHOW Yan-yan	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

## In attendance

Mrs. Agnes WONG	Marine Department
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## **OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced Mr. P.B. Subbiah and Dr. K.K. Sharma, representing Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Captain C.A.J. Vanderperre and Mr. Rajaish Bajpae respectively. Captain Vanderperre and Mr. Bajpae had been appointed as PWC members in place of Messrs CHANG La-ming and WONG Woon-yin respectively since the last meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 24 April 2002**

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

### **II. Matters arising from Minutes of Last Meeting**

#### ***Redevelopment of the Mariners' Club***

3. The Chairman told members that following the last meeting, he received a letter from the Chairman of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union expressing concern about the lack of information on the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club. He then raised the issue with Mr. Percy Weatherall, Managing Director, Jardine Matheson Ltd. and Chairman of the General Committee of the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen (the Mission), Mr. K.H. KOO, Chairman of Hong Kong Shipowners' Association, Rev. Peter Ellis, Senior Chaplain, Mariners' Club and Mr. S.Y. TSUI, Director of Marine, and was informed that the General Committee of the Mission would decide at a meeting in September whether to release to PWC details of the agreement on the redevelopment project between the Mission and Swire Properties Ltd., the developer.

4. Members noted the information currently provided by the Chairman of the General Committee of the Mission as tabled at the meeting about the redevelopment plan for the Mariners' Club, particularly the reduction in the total area from 2 688.6m<sup>2</sup> (28 818 sq ft) to 930m<sup>2</sup> (10 000 sq ft) and the exclusion of hostel accommodation after redevelopment. The Chairman also informed members that the Mission planned, after redevelopment, to provide accommodation to those in need of low-cost shelter through arrangements with local hotels and guest houses in Tsim Sha Tsui, and that the land premium to be paid to the Government had yet to be calculated given that the redevelopment plan was at a preliminary stage.

5. Mr. POON Chi-kwok remarked that prior to the last meeting held in April 2002, the Hong Kong Seamen's Union (the Union) had not been consulted on the redevelopment plan for the Mariners' Club. He informed the meeting that the Union had written to various authorities and organisations expressing their concern about the redevelopment proposals. Captain HO Kai-hung expressed that the reduced area of the Club after redevelopment would be too small for the provision of social and recreational facilities for seafarers. Dr. K.K. SHARMA opined that the facilities provided by the Mariners' Club were welcomed by the shipping industry, and it was important that the Club should continue to provide such facilities and services on a non-profit basis. Mr. P.B. SUBBIAH told the meeting that the Mariners' Club was the only place where his company would think of accommodating the crew staff.

6. The Chairman requested members to forward to him their opinions in writing about the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club through the Secretary, so that he could raise their concerns with the General Committee of the Mission and substantiate a request for information about the terms and conditions of the agreement between the Mission and the developer. He suggested, and members agreed, that depending on further information to be obtained, a special meeting be convened to discuss the strategy to be adopted by the PWC to push for a fair deal for the seafarers in the redevelopment plan.

### **III. Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002**

7. The Chairman reported on the financial position of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2002 as set out in page 3 of the financial statements of the Committee which was circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting –

Income	\$141,425
Expenditure	<u>\$114,510</u>
Surplus for the year	\$ 26,915
Surplus at the beginning of year	<u>\$204,545</u>
Surplus at the end of year	<b>\$231,460</b>

He remarked that the financial position of the Committee was quite healthy, even though the economy of Hong Kong had not been performing well. Members unanimously approved the Committee's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002.

8. The Chairman said, and members noted, that the Committee's honorary auditors, Arthur W.C. MO & Co, had audited the Committee's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002 completely free of charge; and that in recognition of its kind contributions, the company would be acknowledged as the honorary auditors of the Committee in its annual report.

**IV. Potential Donors for 2002/03**

9. The Chairman said that the Secretary had consolidated a list of donors in 2001/02 and a list of potential donors for 2002/03, both of which were circulated to members together with the agenda. He stressed the importance of addressing the appeal letters for donation to the right people, and asked members to examine and review the list of potential donors and to advise the Secretary of any necessary amendments and additions. Members noted that the appeal letters would be sent out by mid-October.

10. In response to Mr. POON Chi-kwok's enquiry about the reasons for the Committee subsidizing only two charitable organizations (the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen and the Danish Seamen's Church), the Chairman explained that the Committee was not able to extend its subsidies to other agencies because of its limited financial resources.

**V. Draft Annual Report for 2001/02**

11. The Chairman invited comments from members on the draft Annual Report for 2001/02, a copy of which was sent to members together with the agenda. Members had no comments and accepted the draft without amendment. The Secretary would arrange for the printing of the report which would be distributed together with the appeal letters for donation to potential donors in October 2002.

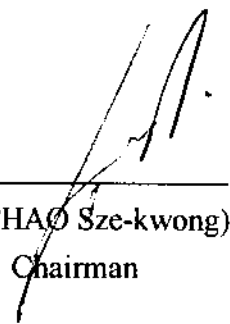
**VI. Declaration of Interests by Members of the Port Welfare Committee (PWC Paper No. 1/2002)**

12. The Secretary briefed members on the background, principles and guidelines for the proposed adoption by the Committee of a one-tier system for declaration of interests whereby the Chairman/a member was required to disclose his/her interest when he/she considered that there was a potential conflict of interest in a matter placed before the Committee. She stressed that the basic principle to be observed was that members' advice should be disinterested and impartial and it was not intended that a member should make a declaration of interest simply because the Committee was considering a

matter in which he/she had knowledge or experience. Members unanimously agreed that the one-tier declaration of interests system, including the principles and guidelines set out in paragraphs 4-7 of PWC Paper No. 1/2002, should be adopted by the Committee and implemented with immediate effect.


**VII. Date of Next Meeting**

13. The Chairman noted that the next meeting was scheduled for April 2003, and advised members that a special meeting might be convened in late October/early November depending on the availability of details of the terms of the joint-ventured redevelopment of the Mariners' Club between the Mission and the developer.



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(Mr. CHAO Sze-kwong)  
Chairman



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(Miss CHOW Yan-yan)  
Secretary

Date : 6 May 2003