

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Notes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 6 May 2003 at 2:45p.m. in Conference Room A,
Marine Department Headquarters, 24th Floor,
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. CHAO Sze-kwong, George	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Captain C.A.J. Vanderperre	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Captain YU Yun-chi (on behalf of Captain HO Kai-hung)	Member	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Mr. POON Chi-kwok	Member	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
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)

Absent with apologies

Mr. Rajaish Bajpae	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Dr. P.L. MA	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)

In attendance

Mr. Andrew CHEN		Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Mrs. Agnes WONG		Marine Department

VOTE OF THANKS

The appointment of Mr. George CHAO as Chairman of the Port Welfare Committee would end in August 2003. Before the start of the meeting, Mr. S.Y. TSUI, Director of Marine gave a vote of thanks and presented a gift to Mr. CHAO in appreciation of his leadership and valuable contribution to the Committee in the past six years.

OPENING REMARKS

2. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the following members:
 - (a) Captain C.A.J. Vanderperre, representing Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce;
 - (b) Captain YU Yun-chi, representing Merchant Navy Officers' Guild on behalf of Captain HO Kai-hung; and
 - (c) Mr. Andrew CHEN, nominated by the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association to succeed him as member of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 13 September 2002

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

II. Matters arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

Redevelopment of the Mariner's Club

4. The Chairman told members that following the last meeting, he received a letter of 24 September 2002 from the Hong Kong Seamen's Union expressing their views about the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club, and had subsequently taken up the matter with the Hong Kong Port and Maritime Board. In addition, 12 associations/unions from the shipping sector wrote in late January 2003 to Mr. Michael SUEN, Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands raising objections to the redevelopment proposals. The objections centred on the reduction in the total area from some 70 000 square feet to 10 000 square feet and the exclusion of hostel accommodation and recreational facilities like swimming pool, bowling alley etc. after

redevelopment; and the lack of consultation with relevant bodies from the shipping sector about the redevelopment proposals. The Chairman also told members that he had raised the matter with Mr. Michael SUEN and was informed that the Lands Department would consult the relevant parties including Marine Department when it considers the application from the Mariner's Club for modification of the land lease conditions to implement redevelopment of the site.

5. The Chairman concluded that since Hong Kong was pushing itself forward as a premier international shipping and maritime services centre, the Mariner's Club should strive to improve, and not reduce its facilities. He suggested that the Hong Kong Seamen's Union should continue to exert pressure on the issue, and that joint efforts be made to push for the preservation of the existing facilities of the Club and for the Club to consult with relevant parties about the redevelopment plan. Mr. P.C. SO assured members that the Marine Department had met with the Management Committee of the Club and representatives of seamen/seamen's unions to try to mediate over the objections and would continue to do so.

III. Financial position of the Committee as at 31 March 2003

6. The Secretary briefed members on the financial position of the Committee as at 31.3.2003 as follows:-

	\$
Savings Account	172,914.24
Current Account	8.13
Fixed Deposit Account	<u>172,576.77</u>
Balance :	345,499.14

IV. Donations received by the Committee in 2002/2003

7. The Chairman reported that in response to the Committee's appeal for donations, a total of \$117,500 was received from 65 donors in 2002/2003. The list of donors and their donations had been circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting. The amount of donations received was \$19,500 less than that in 2001/2002. (In 2001/2002, a total of \$137,000 was received from 62 donors). The Chairman remarked that in view of the present economic situation, the Committee had not fared badly.

V. Allocation of grants to agencies

8. The Chairman proposed, and members agreed that taking into account the amount of donations received in 2002/2003 and the annual expenditure of the Committee of about \$4,200, the same amount of subsidies as in last year be granted to the two organizations as follows:-

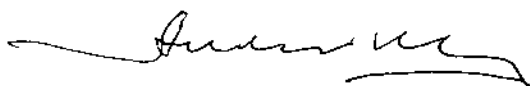
	\$
The Sailor's Home & Missions to Seamen & Apostleship of the Sea	100,000
Danish Seamen's Church	<u>10,000</u>
Total :	110,000

VI. Any Other Business

9. On behalf of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union, Mr. POON Chi-kwok expressed appreciation of the Chairman's leadership, which was echoed by Caption YU Yun-chi representing the Merchant Navy Officers' Guild.

VII. Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting will be held in September 2003 after the Annual Account has been finalized and the draft Annual Report prepared. Members will be advised in due course.



(Mr. Andrew CHEN Yee)
Chairman



(Miss CHOW Yan-yan)
Secretary

Date : 3 September 2003