

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Notes of the Port Welfare Committee Meeting
held on 3 September 2003 at 2:30p.m. in Conference Room A,
Marine Department Headquarters, 24th Floor,
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. Andrew CHEN Yee	Chairman	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Captain C.A.J. Vanderperre	Member	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Rajaish Bajpae	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
Mr. SO Ping-chi	Member	Marine Department (ex-officio)
Miss CHOW Yan-yan	Secretary	Marine Department (ex-officio)

In attendance

Mr. TING Kam-yuen		Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Mrs. Agnes WONG		Marine Department

Absent with apologies

Dr. P.L. MA	Member	Department of Health (ex-officio)
Mrs. SIU HO Kar-yuk, Clare	Member	Labour Department (ex-officio)

The Secretary welcomed all present and invited members to nominate and elect among themselves the new Chairman of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Election of Committee Chairman

2. Mr. POON Chi-kwok nominated Mr. CHEN Yee to succeed Mr. George CHAO as Chairman of the Committee. Captain VANDERPERRE seconded the proposal. With unanimous consent from members, Mr. CHEN Yee was elected as Chairman of the Committee. Mr. CHEN thanked members for their support and undertook to contribute his best to serve the Committee.

II. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 6 May 2003

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

III. Matters arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

Redevelopment of the Mariner's Club

4. In response to the Chairman's invitation, Mr. P.C. SO briefed members on the Marine Department's (MD's) efforts in trying to mediate over the objections to the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club (MC) raised by representatives of the shipping sector and seamen's unions. Mr. SO said that there were two groups of objectors to the redevelopment proposals, namely, 12 shipping-related associations and a group of 240 local seafarers. Since taking up the role of mediator in May 2003, MD had arranged four meetings for the parties concerned – the two groups of objectors, Lands Department (LD), and the Sailors' Home and Mission to Seamen (SHMS). The meetings centred, and aimed to reach a compromise on the provision to seafarers of hostel accommodation, and welfare and recreational facilities as well as the associated floor area in the MC after redevelopment. While the seamen's representatives strongly objected to the reduction of total floor area (from about 80 000 square feet to 10 000 square feet) and of recreational and welfare facilities, and the exclusion of hostel accommodation after redevelopment of MC, the SHMS agreed to consider good and practical suggestions for improvement of the redevelopment plan. MD would continue to assist in the consultation. The result of the consultation would

be forwarded to LD for their consideration of SHMS's application for modification of the land lease conditions to implement the redevelopment of the MC site, which required the endorsement of the Executive Council.

5. Members noted that Mr. TING Kam-yuen of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union, who was in attendance at the meeting, represented both groups of objectors. Members exchanged views on the redevelopment proposals, and considered that given Hong Kong's position as an international shipping centre, the MC should continue to provide facilities meeting the needs and demands of visiting seafarers. There was a continued demand for low-cost hostel accommodation from the shipping industry, and such accommodation should be provided together with the welfare and recreational facilities for seafarers under one roof in the redeveloped MC.

6. The Chairman agreed that the Committee should make known its stand in writing to the relevant authorities/parties. He suggested, and members concurred that Mr. TING Kam-yuen would compile and provide background information on the number of seafarers visiting Hong Kong, occupancy rate of the hostel accommodation, utilization of the welfare and recreational facilities in MC, and any other details about the operation of the MC etc, to facilitate the preparation of a letter stating the Committee's stand on the issue.

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

7. The financial position of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2003 as set out in page 3 of the financial statements of the Committee was circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting -

	\$
Income	118,190
Expenditure	<u>114,150</u>
Surplus for the year	4,040
Surplus at the beginning of year	<u>231,460</u>
Surplus at the end of year	235,500

Members noted that the balance was very similar to that of last year(\$231,460), and unanimously approved the Committee's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003.

V. Potential Donors for 2003/2004

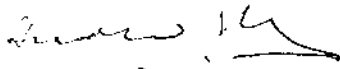
8. The Secretary had compiled a list of donors in 2002/03 and a list of potential donors for 2003/04, both of which were circulated to members together with the agenda of the meeting. Members undertook to examine and review the list of potential donors and to advise the Secretary of any necessary amendments and additions, before the appeal letters for donation were sent out by mid-October.

VI. Draft Annual Report for 2002/03

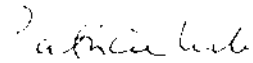
9. A copy of the draft Annual Report for 2002/03 was sent to members together with the agenda. Members had no comments and accepted the draft without amendment. The Secretary would arrange for the printing of the report which would be distributed together with the appeal letters for donation to potential donors in October 2003.

VII. Date of next meeting

10. The Chairman advised members that the next regular meeting will be held in April 2004. If the need arises, a special meeting will be called in the interim to discuss developments in the Committee's proposals on the redevelopment of the Mariners' Club.



(Mr. Andrew CHEN Yee)
Chairman



(Mrs. Patricia LUK)
Secretary

Date : 15 April 2004