

THE SIXTY - NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE

HONG KONG
2017 - 18

PORT
WELFARE
COMMITTEE

Port Welfare Committee
(1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

Chairman : Mr Timothy Scott HUXLEY - Hong Kong Shipowners Association
(*up to 30 June 2017*)

Mr FENG Jia-pei
(*from 19 September 2017*)

Members : Capt Umesh LULLA - Hong Kong General Chamber of
(*up to 30 June 2017*) Commerce

Mr Alok ROY
(*from 1 July 2017*)

Mr Fared Ahamad KHAN - Hong Kong General Chamber of
Commerce

Mr Michael MARQUES - Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Hong Kong

Ms CHIU Sui-hang, Emma - Hong Kong Seamen's Union

Dr HO Lei-ming, Raymond - Department of Health (ex-officio)

Ms CHAN Wing-han, Grace - Labour Department (ex-officio)
(*up to 2 April 2018*)

Ms CHAN Pui-ching, Cecilia
(*from 3 April 2018*)

Mr CHOI Chi-chuen - Marine Department (ex-officio)
(*up to 28 January 2018*)

Mr CHAN Ming-yau
(*from 29 January 2018*)

Secretary : Ms NG Yin-nei, Fausta - Marine Department (ex-officio)

HONORARY AUDITOR

Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit
Marine Department

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To co-ordinate on behalf of Government arrangements in Hong Kong for the social and recreational welfare of all serving seamen, with the exception of those who are residing in Hong Kong. The term “serving seamen” is construed to mean “those seamen visiting the port and those temporarily residing here, consequent upon discharge for health or other reasons, awaiting re-engagement or repatriation”.
2. To allocate any grants or monies which the Port Welfare Committee may receive from all sources for the social and recreational welfare of seamen.
3. To obtain information on developments and facilities in connection with seamen’s welfare in other ports, and to take appropriate action in the light of this information.
4. To take such other action as it may see fit to promote the welfare of visiting seamen, including action in conjunction with other social and recreational bodies.
5. To publish an annual report and audited accounts.

REPORT

Introduction

The membership of the Port Welfare Committee (The Committee) is drawn from representatives of the local shipping community and government departments which are concerned with the welfare of visiting seafarers on ships calling at Hong Kong.

Objectives and Subventions

2. It is an international common practice for major ports to provide seafarers, who are away from home for prolonged periods at sea, with social and welfare services and onshore facilities that typically include affordable accommodation of reasonable standard and other leisure facilities. The Committee aims to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities. In Hong Kong, such support services are provided by the Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen (The Mission) and the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong (The Church). These two organisations derive their income from the services they offer, such as restaurant facilities. In addition, The Committee's subventions are one of the sources of funds for them.

Finance

3. The Committee relies upon donations from the shipping and commercial community for its financial resources. The total amount of donations collected in 2017–18 was \$170,800. In the same year, a subvention of \$160,000 was granted to The Mission and \$16,000 to The Church.

Shipping

4. Hong Kong is an international maritime centre and a regional hub port. It is one of the busiest ports in the world. In 2017, there were 372 610 vessel arrivals and departures at Hong Kong Port, involving 20.8 million twenty-foot equivalent units of containers and 282 million tonnes of cargo. The cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys exceeded 29 million.

Employment

5. The shortage of manpower is a subject of concern to the maritime industry in Hong Kong. The government and the industry have joined hands to train up local persons to help alleviate this shortage. A Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme¹ was set up in 2004 with an initial funding of \$9.0 million. An additional amount of \$19.2 million was granted by the government in 2009. A further amount of \$4.38 million was granted in March 2018 to the Scheme from the Maritime & Aviation Training Fund². As at 31 March 2018, a total of 509 young persons had joined the Scheme; 190 deck and 96 engineer cadets had obtained Class 3 Certificate of Competency (CoC); 34 deck and 35 engineer officers had obtained Class 2 CoC; and 30 deck officers and 11 engineer officers had obtained Class 1 CoC. The result was encouraging.

¹ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/others/sgtis.html> and <http://www.hkmpb.gov.hk/en/manpower/sgtis.html>

² <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/others/lvttis.html>

*The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen*³

6. In 2017, the chaplain and ship visitors of The Mission have been continually visiting vessel's crew both in Hong Kong Terminals in Kwai Chung and by use of its motor launch in the anchorage. 3 429 ship crew have been visited, provided with welfare support and valued contact with crew and officers aboard. All seafarers are visited regardless of their race, creed or colour; all are treated equally and valued as fellow members of the maritime community. Services provided at these visits range from pastoral counselling, legal advice, contact with home, contact and communication with the shipping company or management (often overcoming language difficulties), transport to and from its seafarers centres (2 109 seafarers are transported from ship to shore free of charge), shopping, sightseeing and off the vessel BBQs, religious services particularly after a death on board, ship blessing and many other services - too small to name individually. Apart from daily visiting of ships, The Mission also actively visits all seafarers in hospitals in Hong Kong, helping them with communication to home, and providing them with anything which they may need during their stay and recovery. It is particularly important to visit seafarers in hospital. When other patients are receiving family and friends nearby, the seafarers can feel even more isolated than normal. A visit from the chaplaincy staff can help the seafarer feel wanted, respected and not alone. Of course nothing can replace a family member, and over the last year, The Mission has hosted many families of seafarers who are visiting Hong Kong to see their loved ones in hospital. In 2017, The Mission conducted 102 separate hospital visits and cared for 61 seafarers who were hospitalised in Hong Kong. Seafarers from 11 countries were taken to hospital in Hong Kong throughout the year, most of whom were from China, the Philippines, India and Indonesia and some were from Malaysia and Nepal.

³ Incorporated under the Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1042)

7. The Mission operates two Mariners' Clubs, one in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) which is in the heart of the tourist area of Kowloon and the second is located right in the centre of "container port city" of Kwai Chung.



The Kwai Chung facility is very accessible for those seafarers whose vessels are often only in port for a matter of hours whereas the TST Club is an ideal location for those seafarers who are leaving or joining their vessels and require accommodation. The TST Club is close to the shopping malls, the night markets and the downtown activity of the tourist nightlife. In March 2018, the half-century-old TST Club was closed for redevelopment. The process will take about five years, during which a temporary Drop-in-Centre is being established at Wing On Plaza, East TST (Room 705). This facility will provide a lounge with free WiFi for seafarers and a bag drop for those who wish to go shopping. Chaplaincy services will be on call and available for counselling during office hours. The facility will also have a conference room that will be made available to the maritime community. The redevelopment will allow The Mission to modernise facilities of the TST Club for continuous provision of affordable welfare services to seafarers. There will be 75 bedrooms all en-suite, a heated swimming pool, conference facilities, a gym, a restaurant, a bar and a church along with chaplaincy services.

8. Kwai Chung was used by 4 177 seafarers as a drop in facility throughout 2017. The Mission runs a taxi/shuttle service from terminals to Kwai Chung Drop-in-Centre and back to anchorage time ashore. Even though shore leave is very short given the quick turnaround times in Hong Kong terminals, The Mission still manages to see a good number of seafarers at the centre.

9. In November 2017, The Mission held its 5th Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Annual Seafarers Awards. With over 240 participants attending the Dinner and Awards Ceremony, the event was again a great success. The awards this year attracted over 8 000 responses from seafarers serving on Hong Kong owned or managed vessels. The survey continued to ask questions about quality of life aboard and how the seafarers were treated by their employers. The survey has now become a benchmark which some companies are measuring how they are doing and has been greeted with more and more enthusiasm each year. The winners took to the stage at the event. Hong Kong Ship Owner of the Year 2017 was awarded to Oriental Overseas Container Line Ltd (OOCL) whereas Hong Kong Ship Manager of the Year 2017 was awarded to Fleet Management Ltd. It is planned to carry out the survey during the period from 1 July to 30 October 2018 for the Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Seafarers Awards this year to be held on 15 November 2018. The charity part of the dinner has raised over HK\$1.05 million, 20% of which has been dedicated to the continuous work of the Mission in Yangon, Myanmar.

Photos taken from the
5th Annual Maritime Charity Dinner and Annual Seafarers Awards



Hong Kong Ship Owner Award 2017 to OOCL



Hong Kong Ship Manager Award 2017 to Fleet Management Ltd

The Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong⁴

10. The Church has been established in Hong Kong for several decades since 1979. It helps the Danish ships arrive in Hong Kong with anything from dry socks to spiritual aid. 2017–18 was a challenging period for The Church in Hong Kong, as The Church has been busy relocating its offices to Kwai Chung, and is also in the midst of a change of Chaplains. The Church moved out of its old offices in Mariners' Club in TST where The Church previously only had the Danish room, but now The Church has been endowed with its entire operation in Kwai Chung. Such move will foster Hong Kong's maritime industry by providing the much needed welfare facilities and religious guidance for seafarers.



11. The Church has seen a rise in Danish ships since Hamburg Süd was acquired by Maersk in November 2017, which means that The Church is now considerably busier with the ships. Also, The Church has been working hard to get to know non-Danish captains on the ships about their mission, which means an increase of requests from the ships, in terms of everything from transport to food delicacies, entertainment or office equipment.

12. While The Church is delighted with an increase in people using its services, it also connotes an increase in The Church's workload. The Church continues to provide a wide range of services such as newspaper service, transport and library service covering languages of Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and English. The Church also has its kiosk service and supply of recreational and welfare items (e.g. TV and exercise equipment) as well as Danish specialty food for the ships, especially around festive seasons of Christmas and Easter in addition to spiritual and social assistance.

⁴ <http://www.soemandskirken.org/>

13. While the recent change of chaplains has been an extra challenge, The Church keeps running its service of high quality to the ships, as The Church has done for decades. The Church greatly appreciated the support you have given to them, and The Church sincerely hopes that you will continue to support its mission.



List of donors who made donations to the Port Welfare Committee in 2017 - 18

Donors

- 1 Britannia Hong Kong Limited
- 2 Chellaram Shipping (Hong Kong) Ltd
- 3 Cheoy Lee Shipyards Limited
- 4 Clarksons Platou Asia Limited
- 5 Gard (HK) Ltd
- 6 Grand Seatrade Shipping Company Limited
- 7 Holman Fenwick Willan
- 8 Hong Kong Mid-Stream Operators Association Limited
- 9 Hong Kong Pilots Association Ltd
- 10 Hongkong International Terminals Limited
- 11 Howse Williams Bowers
- 12 IMC Development & Management Limited
- 13 K. M. Tam International Limited
- 14 Keesal, Young & Logan
- 15 Ruttonjee Estates Continuation Limited
- 16 Santana Shipping Services Limited
- 17 Star Cruises (HK) Limited
- 18 Steamship Mutual Management (Hong Kong) Limited
- 19 Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Co. (H.K.) Limited
- 20 Taiship Company Limited
- 21 Teh-Hu Cargocean Management Co Ltd
- 22 The Caravel Group Limited
- 23 The Hongkong Bank Foundation
- 24 Unique Shipping (H.K.) Limited
- 25 Valles Steamship Co., Ltd.
- 26 Wallem Services Limited

Total donations received in 2017–18: \$170,800.

In addition, the following donations were received in April 2018 and will be reflected in the financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2019.

- 1 Anglo-Eastern Univan Group
- 2 Asia Container Terminals Limited
- 3 COSCO-HIT Terminals (Hong Kong) Limited
- 4 V. K. Hsu & Sons Foundation Limited

*Thank
You!*

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018




HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE (the 'Committee')
(Operated by Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ('HKSAR'))

With the appointment of the Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit of the Marine Department as the Honorary Auditor of the Committee according to the Standing Accounting Instructions (SAI) 1975 (6) of the Government of HKSAR, we have audited the attached financial statements of the Committee set out on pages 2 to 4, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2018, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

The financial statements were prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee, which managed the fund of the Committee. In accordance with SAI 1975 (4), the public officer responsible for the management of a non-Government fund shall cause a statement of receipts and payments to be prepared for the fund for each of its accounting periods and at least once a year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with SAI 1975 and Accounting Circular No. 2/2016, including complying with the independence requirement.

In our opinion, the financial statements were properly prepared from the books and records maintained, and reflected fairly the receipts and payments of the fund of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2018.



MAK On-kei
Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit
Marine Department
Date: 7 September 2018

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

	<u>2018</u> HK\$	<u>2017</u> HK\$
RECEIPTS		
Annual donations	170,800	163,300
Bank interest income	0	1
	<u>170,800</u>	<u>163,301</u>
PAYMENTS		
Grant to The Sailors' Home and Missions to Seamen	160,000	140,000
Grant to The Danish Seamen's Church	16,000	14,000
Bank charges	300	950
	<u>176,300</u>	<u>154,950</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(5,500)	8,351
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	37,384	29,033
RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>31,884</u>	<u>37,384</u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2018**

	<u>2018</u> HK\$	<u>2017</u> HK\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	31,884	37,384
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>31,884</u>	<u>37,384</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
RETAINED SURPLUSES	<u>31,884</u>	<u>37,384</u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

We certify that the statement of receipts and payments has been properly prepared and reflects fairly the receipts and payments of the Fund.

Approved by the Committee on 7 September 2018



Chairman
(Mr FENG Jia-pei, Gilbert)



Treasurer
(Miss Dora TUNG)

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE
ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES TO
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Reporting entity

Port Welfare Committee is a committee operated by the Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Committee's registered office is located at 21/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Hong Kong.

The Committee is a non-profit making body and its principal activity is to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities.

1. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are prepared on a cash basis. Moreover, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the committee is a going concern.

2. Taxation

No provision for taxation is necessary as the Committee is exempted as a charitable body.

3. Committee Members' emoluments

The Committee Members did not receive any emoluments from the Committee.