

## Seafarers' Advisory Board (SAB) 2022

### Notes of Meeting

Date : 23 June 2022 (Thursday)  
Time : 3:00 p.m.  
Venue : Conference Room A, 24/F, Marine Department Headquarters,  
Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. WONG Sai-fat	Deputy Director of Marine (1), Marine Department
<b>Members</b>	Mr. CHEUNG Sai-teng	Hong Kong Seamen's Union
	Capt. Vikrant Singh	Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
	GUSAIN	
	Mr. CHAN See-yin	Superintendent of Mercantile Marine Office, Marine Department
	Mr. LIANG Lok-man, Raymond, JP	Assistant Commissioner for Labour
<b>In-attendance</b>	Capt. LAU Mang-tak	Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, Hong Kong (stand-in for Mr. AU YEUNG Kam-lung)
	Mr. Rohit Ashok	Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd
	MEHROTRA	(stand-in for Mr. Capt. Vinay SINGH)
	Capt. LIAO Hongzhen	Associate Maritime Company (Hong Kong) Ltd. (stand-in for Capt. HU Bin)
	Mr. CAI Chunqiao	Senior Surveyor/Seafarers Policy, Marine Department
	Mr. KUANG Zhijian	Senior Surveyor/ Seafarers and Examination(1), Marine Department
<b>Absent with Apology</b>	Mr. CHUNG Tung-tong	Merchant Navy Officers' Guild-Hong Kong
	Mr. AU YEUNG Kam-lung	Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, Hong Kong
	Capt. Vinay SINGH	Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd
	Capt. HU Bin	Associate Maritime Company (Hong Kong) Ltd.

**Secretary** Mr NG Kwok-leong, Brian      Office Executive (Local Vessels  
and Examination Divisional  
Administration Unit), Marine Department

**(1)      Agenda Item 1:    Opening Remarks**

**The Chairman** welcomed all members and representatives to the meeting.

**(2)      Agenda Item 2:    Confirmation on Notes of Last Meeting  
(14.4.2021)**

2.            Since no comment was received from members before / during the meeting, the notes of last meeting were endorsed.

**(3)      Agenda Item 3:    Implementation of Maritime Labour  
Convention, 2006 (MLC) in Hong Kong SAR (SAB Paper No.  
2/2022 and SAB Paper No. 3/2022)**

*(a)    Occupational Health and Safety (SAB Paper No. 2/2022)*

3.            **Mr. CAI Chunqiao from MD** tabled SAB Paper No. 2/2022. He reported that since the ratification of the MLC which was extended to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in December 2018, MD had not come across any cases of seafarers working on board Hong Kong ships and/or shipping companies operating / managing Hong Kong ships that had difficulties in implementing the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and accident prevention policies and programmes. It was concluded that the legislation and measures on OSH and accident prevention currently applied on Hong Kong ships were effective and should be maintained.

4.            From the statistical data of the OSH protection status on Hong Kong ships outside HK waters, it was noted that the case number and injury and death to person in 2021 had decreased as compared with 2020. The legislation and the measures applied to Hong Kong registered ships (“HK ships”) for the policies and programmes of OSH and accident prevention were effective and should be maintained.

5. **Capt. Vikrant Singh GUSAIN** stated that the number of deaths caused by Enclosed Space was high as shown in the statistical data. **The Chairman** suggested that the shipping companies to strengthen the training applied onboard ship and monitoring the procedures of entering Enclosed Space of seafarers as appropriate.

*(b) Use of Electronic Certificates for Hong Kong Registered Ships under MLC, 2006 (SAB Paper No. 3/2022)*

6. **Mr. CAI Chunqiao from MD** tabled SAB Paper No. 3/2022 on the amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance (Cap. 478) and its subsidiary legislation to introduce the use of electronic certificates (“e-certs”) for HK ships as an alternative option of paper certificates under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 as amended (MLC).

7. **Mr. CHEUNG Sai-teng and Capt. Vikrant Singh GUSAIN** supported the use of e-certs on board HK ships.

**(4) Agenda Item 4: Issuance of Electronic Certificates and Licences for Seafarers under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 (SAB Paper No. 4/2022)**

8. **Mr. CAI Chunqiao from MD** tabled SAB Paper No. 4/2022 on the proposal of amending the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance (Cap. 478) and its subsidiary legislation to introduce the use of electronic certificates and licences (“e-CoCs”) for seafarer as an alternative option of paper certificates under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978.

9. **Mr. CHEUNG Sai-teng and Capt. Vikrant Singh GUSAIN** supported the issuance of e-CoCs for Hong Kong seafarers or seafarers serving on board Hong Kong-registered ships.

**(5) Special arrangement to help seafarers under COVID-19 and conflict in Sea of Azov (MMO)**

10. **Mr. KUANG Zhijian from MD** reported that several special arrangements had been made to help seafarers under COVID-19 pandemic, conflict in Sea of Azov and security problem in piracy-prone regions which were events causing the restriction to the movement of merchant ships and seafarers as below: -

- i) to issue urgent Circular letters to facilitate extension of Certificate, seafarer's employment agreement (SEA), COVID-19 health advice, etc.;
- ii) to approve application for extension of SEA, medical certificate and STCW certificate; and
- iii) to maintain continuous communication with the relevant stakeholders in updating the development of the conflict in the Sea of Azov.

11. **Mr. KUANG ZHIJIAN from MD** reported the assistance provided to two HK ships which encountered difficulties in the Sea of Azov as below: -

- i) to seek immediate assistance from local port Authority and local Chinese Embassy; and
- ii) to maintain continuous communication with the relevant stakeholders in updating the development, who are the shipping companies, Hong Kong Shipowner Association (HKSOA) and other seafarers administrations/unions.

12. **Mr. KUANG Zhijian from MD** further suggested several measures to help seafarers under the pandemic and war conflict situations to be considered by shipowners including the management companies as below: -

- i) to pay special attention to the wellbeing and mental health of the crew; and
- ii) to provide timely assistance to seafarers in need, e.g. early termination or extension of SEA, repatriation in difficult area and special arrangement of salary remittance for family.

13. **The Chairman** expressed that both shipping companies

and seafarers were subject to huge pressure under global COVID-19 pandemic. MD would always stand ready to render assistance to them.

14. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

**Secretariat**  
**Local Vessels and Examination Division**  
**Marine Department**  
**July 2022**