

Welcome Message

歡迎詞



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Chairman 2020/2021

Welcome to this new edition of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association Year Book. As always, it serves as a reference for members about the various work and achievements of the Association in the past year, and a guide to newcomers to the Hong Kong shipping industry about the broad range of services that our vibrant maritime community provides.

Both the past year and 2021 so far have surely been among the most unusual in living memory. The pandemic has wreaked havoc around the world and created worries about the future. Like other sectors of the global community, shipping is facing many challenges, especially regarding crew change operations, and fuel bunkering and insurance matters. We are pleased to see that vaccinations have started in many parts of the world, and hope that Hong Kong will soon resume some level of normalcy, where we can welcome business travellers to our city, and where we can travel to visit ships, clients and business partners across the world. While the Association is doing its best to help members address their individual problems, the key to meeting the myriad challenges we face is the global efforts of all the stakeholders in the shipping community, including government regulators and port authorities.

Understandably, the pandemic has also caused disruptions in Association operations. We have had no choice but to cancel or postpone many regular technical events, social activities and delegation visits. Though some seminars and meetings were finally conducted online, it was not the same as our physical gatherings, which the shipping family always treasures.

Aside from the pandemic, as usual, there are challenges related to various regulatory, policy and operational issues – the imposition of the 2020 global sulphur cap, the termination of the US – Hong Kong shipping tax agreement, the OECD's new digital taxation proposal, and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, to name just a few. We have overcome some of them, but we are still working hard on many of them, not least of course the crewing rotation crisis.

Being Chairman of the HKSOA is an enormous privilege, though I did not expect that life would be so different with the coronavirus outbreak. But there are always uncertainties in life – just as when I worked offshore as a seafarer. The Association Year Book of this year is a "special edition", as we would like to devote it to all our heroes at sea. Without them working bravely and tirelessly in the frontline, the global community cannot win this battle of the century.

歡迎您！一如既往，新版的香港船東會年刊為會員回顧過去一年協會的工作和成就，並且讓香港航運業界的新晉，了解關於我們這個活力充沛的航運社群所提供的廣泛服務的。

無論是過去一年，或 2021 年至今，都肯定是人們記憶裡最不尋常時刻。新冠肺炎疫情給世界各地造成嚴重破壞，也令到大家對未來感到憂慮。與全球其他界別一樣，航運業也面臨許多挑戰，特別是在船員換班操作、燃料加注和船舶保險等方面。幸好，很多地區終於啟動疫苗接種安排；希望香港可以儘快恢復一定程度的正常運作，讓我們可以繼續歡迎商務旅客，而我們自己也可以容易進出世界各地視察船隻、與客戶及合作伙伴見面。香港船東會必定盡力幫助會員解決所遇到的種種問題。但是，要應對行業面臨的巨大挑戰的關鍵，還是有賴全球航運所有持份者，包括政府及監管機構和港口當局共同努力。

疫情還影響了協會的日常運作。我們難免要取消或推遲許多慣常的技術交流、聯誼聚會及拜訪活動。雖然協會還是安排了部分研討會和會議以網上形式進行，但仍無法媲美業界喜聞樂見的正式聚會。

除了疫情外，我們還像以往一樣，忙於應付各種監管、政策和業務營運的挑戰，包括 2020 全球限硫令、美國與香港航運互免稅收協定的終止、經濟合作與發展組織提出的數碼稅收建議、以及幾內亞灣的海盜活動等不勝枚舉。我們已經克服了部分困難，但是仍在為解決許多其他困難包括船員換班問題而努力。

擔任香港船東會主席是我的莫大榮幸，但是始料不及，疫情爆發以後，生活變得大相徑庭。這也許就是人生——充滿了不確定性，猶如我當年的海員生涯。今期的香港船東會年刊是「特別版」，謹藉此獻給所有的海上英雄。沒有你們在前線日以繼夜、努力不懈地工作，人類根本不可能贏得這場世紀戰役。