

For "Seaview"

ICSHK (Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Hong Kong Branch) Column  
by Y.K. Chan, Chairman, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Hong Kong Branch

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#### Development of Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Hong Kong Branch (ICSHK)

ICSHK established a relationship with the Institute of Seatransport over 10 years ago. The first cooperation was to set up this ICSHK Column in "Seaview" magazine. The initiative was to offer a platform for our members to contribute their articles for sharing their experience and knowledge with other professionals in the shipping industry. Our relationship continues in the training programmes, namely (i) the diploma/certificate course organized by the Institute of Seatransport with the School of Continuing and Professional Education ("SCOPE") of City University of Hong Kong and (ii) ICS Study Group formed by us partnering with the Institute of Seatransport, Hong Kong Logistics Management Staff Association, Hong Kong Seamen's Union and subsequently the CY Tung International Centre for Maritime Studies of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong ("PolyU"). The venue for the Study Group was initially at the office of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union and later at the PolyU campus.

We support the diploma/certificate course (i) above by assigning our members to teach the subjects relating to chartering business. The purpose of our ICS Study Group (ii) above is not only to guide practitioner-students preparing for the ICS Professional Qualifying Examination through tutorials and group discussions, but also to offer an opportunity to those parties who are interested in broadening their shipping knowledge.

To echo the Hong Kong SAR Government's support to strengthen Hong Kong as an international maritime centre, we have been giving scholarships to the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies of PolyU and the Hong Kong Community College of PolyU in past years as a gesture of encouragement to young talents as successors in our shipping industry. We have met and contributed our views to the government appointed consultants for a study to enhance Hong Kong further as an international maritime centre. We are earnestly waiting for the publication of the report\* for our follow up. In the meantime, the Maritime Industry Council ("MIC") of the government has released its new initiatives effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to support the professional training of in-service practitioners in the maritime sector under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund. ICS is one of the potential organizations for its support on reimbursement of examination fees to successful candidates. MIC also appeals to the shipping industry for offering summer internship to young students so as to enable them to gain exposure and experience before their graduation from universities. All of us in the industry should give full support.

As mentioned above, we have collaborated with other institutes/associations in maritime training programmes. We have further expanded the network for our members by organizing evening talks, as a part of our continuing professional development programme, with certificate of attendance (on request). We have successfully applied to The Hong Kong Law Society for CPD points for the last talk on “Ship Lease Finance” delivered by Mr. Jonathan Silver of Howse Williams Bowers on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. We shall organize another evening talk given by Prof. Anselmo Reyes on “Some Thoughts on Making Arbitration More Affordable” in June 2014. It will be jointly organized with Asia Pacific Regional Office of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators. All of our functions are open to all practitioners in shipping and shipping-related industries free of charge. You will receive our circulars in due course. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for sharing knowledge, exchanging views on the topical issues and networking among different disciplines. We would like to do more as far as our resources allow.

We are glad to see the success of the delegation organized by Hong Kong Maritime Forum to visit Shanghai in March 2013 to promote the Hong Kong maritime industry and investigate any possible win-win cooperation between the two cities. We support the workshop series on “Interdisciplinary Maritime Practice” introduced jointly by the Institute of Seatrtransport and Hong Kong Logistics Management Staff Association. We also participate in other events arranged by the Nautical Institute, Hong Kong and Young Professionals in Shipping Network. We help circulating their notices of functions to our members. We consider that it is a good sign of collaboration among the professional bodies.

ICS reached its 100-year landmark in 2011. Our branch had a very successful Golden Jubilee Reception held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with participation of senior government officials and prominent figures in the shipping industry. We are grateful to those sponsors in recognition of our 50-year services in the community.

Further to ICS’s agreement made with the Professional Qualification Authority of Ministry of Transport in China, we hope that we could contact our members working in Shanghai for more activities in training and networking there. Recently, we have developed a training programme in cooperation with Taiwan International Ports Corporation. It commenced in the middle of April 2014. By such arrangements, we could also further help our members to promote their shipping services to the Mainland China and Taiwan.

We learned from “TradeWinds” on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014 that some 330 students sat for ICS examinations in Athens this year while we had around 80 students in Hong Kong. It indicates that the young generations in Greece are so enthusiastic to gain knowledge in a hope to acquire the internationally recognized status of being ICS members. We need to exert more effort to encourage the younger generation in Hong Kong to join our industry and ICS.

We organize two rounds of “ICS Study Group” lectures and tutorials each Branch year. The second round was completed at the end of March for 6 most popular subjects, namely "Introduction to Shipping & Shipping Business", "Dry Cargo Chartering", "Legal Principles in Shipping Business", "Ship

Operations and Management", "Ship Sale and Purchase" and "Economics of Sea Transport and International Trade" focusing on Professional Qualifying Examinations starting from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Iris Mak (Vice-Chairman), Anand Sharma (Hon. Secretary), Jimmy Ng (Education Officer), Ole Kraft, Manson Cheung (Examination Officer) and I were the tutors. We wish all the candidates a great success in the examinations.

We wish to mention that our Branch members comprise not only shipbrokers as indicated in the ICS's name but also accountants, lawyers, marine surveyors, marine insurance brokers, seafarers, academics and other professionals working for shipowning, shipmanagement and ship agency. It reflects ICS's mission of "Promoting professionalism in commercial shipping worldwide".

We sponsor and support Noble Group for its annual event of "Noble Sixes Cricket Fiesta". We have a young member soccer team to participate in "Pacific Basin Sixes" match every year. We always encourage our young member group to work with its counterparts of other professional bodies for joint events.

Our Vice-chairman Iris Mak sits on the Logistics Industry Working Committee for the Recognition of Prior Learning Mechanism. She has been appointed as a member of MIC. We believe that she can work closely with other MIC members in particular Dr. Jimmy Ng (also ICSHK Education Officer) and Mr. P.C. So (Chairman of Institute of Seatransport) representing our partner associations to help further promote the industry.

The SCOPE course of "Certificate in Sea Transport" and "Professional Diploma in Shipping and Logistics Management" has been scheduled to commence on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. We hope that it is eligible to be included on the list of approved course under the Maritime and Aviation Training fund of MIC.

As "Seaview" is widely distributed in the community locally and abroad, we are pleased that this brief article can let other professionals know more about ICSHK's works for its members and the community and its development in Hong Kong and greater China.

\* Note: The final report and executive summary for the Consultancy Study on Enhancing Hong Kong's Position as an International Maritime Centre was released by MIC on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014. They can be viewed on MIC's website (<http://www.mic.gov.hk/eng/whatnew/index.htm>)