

## MARITIME PROFESSION – Engineering Crew (Seagoing Vessels)

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**Host :** Seafaring used to be popular for many people to make a living  
But nowadays, this occupation has mostly been forgotten  
People only focus on immediate interest and quick money  
and forget “no pain, no gain”  
Only by working hard can we truly bring ourselves fortune

**Host :** Are there still young people working as seafarers in Hong Kong?  
Definitely!  
I found two youngsters working on seagoing vessels  
Sing  
(Sing, Engineering Crew, Seagoing Vessels)  
and Kin  
(Kin, Engineering Crew, Seagoing Vessels)  
to introduce the work on seagoing vessels for us

**Host :** What were the reasons for you to join this industry?

**Sing :** I majored in business subject  
And I have done office work for about a year  
I thought the prospect was not as good as I had expected  
I found that I can obtain professional qualifications  
in a relatively shorter period of time in seafaring  
Therefore I further studied mechanical engineering  
which met the entry requirement to start my career

**Host :** What about you, Kin?

**Kin :** My case is a bit different from Sing  
I majored in mechanical engineering

But I did not decide which sector to work in yet  
Later, from a maritime-related career seminar  
I learnt that the promotion path  
and prospect in seafaring were quite clear  
What's more, I wanted to see the world  
so I decided to develop a seafaring career

**Host :** What are the requirements to start a seafaring career (engineering crew)?

**Sing :** You have to complete the related maritime training courses  
Taking engineering department as an example:  
after completing the mechanical engineering course  
pre-approved by the Marine Department  
you need to get 12-month sea time  
and combined workshop skills training  
Then you can take the examination of  
Certificate of Competency (Marine Engineer Officer) Class 3  
You may then serve as an Engineering Watchkeeping Officer

**Sing :** The daily work of a cadet includes checking oil cylinders  
and the operation of machines  
such as generators, main engine, boilers and so on  
According to the instruction from the Engineer Officers  
we assist in daily repair and maintenance

**Kin :** I am an Engineering Watchkeeping Officer  
My main duties are checking the operation  
of the machines on the vessel  
and conducting maintenance work with reference to the records  
In addition, I also manage the stock of spare parts of the vessel  
The Chief Engineer may deploy us to inspect  
or maintain other machines

If necessary, we also go on deck for machine repairing

**Host :** What are the highest rank of deck and engineering departments?

**Kin :** The highest rank of the engineering department is the Chief Engineer  
The highest rank of the deck department is the Captain

**Host :** What about the salary?

**Kin :** he monthly salary is at least HK\$70,000 to HK\$80,000

**Host :** Do seafarers have to know how to swim?

If someone is not good at swimming, can he become a seafarer?

**Sing :** Of course, he can

But it is better if he knows how to swim.

However, you do not have many chances to get into the sea

Instead, you have to know survival skills

For example, we must first learn fire prevention and firefighting  
security, first aid and usage of rescue boats

before working on the vessel

After getting on board, we also have routine trainings

and drills of these items every month

**Host :** What do you think of the prospect of this industry?

**Sing :** I think it looks promising

As we understand as long as you pass the examinations  
and obtain the related qualifications

the promotion path and salary increment are quite clear

With one step ahead

your salary will be increased within a certain range

**Kin** : Referring to my case, as an Engineering Watchkeeping Officer  
my salary is already three times of what I got as a cadet  
And it took me about three to four years to promote to my current position

**Host** : It is pretty fast  
I am particularly interested in your daily life on the vessel  
Because once you get on board  
it will take quite some time for you to return  
How is your life on board?

**Sing** : I work with Filipino crew  
The Engineering Watchkeeping Officer likes to play table tennis with me  
After that, we can take a rest in our own rooms  
Or if they want to sing karaoke  
we will go to the rest area and listen to their songs

**Host** : Can you get connected to the internet on board?

**Sing** : I am quite lucky  
WIFI is available on the vessel I work on  
I can use the instant messaging applications  
and keep in touch with my friends  
In addition, upon berthing  
if I can find the post office  
I will try to send post cards and letters to my friends

**Host** : In fact, this occupation allows you to go to many different places  
Where have you been?

**Kin** : I have been to all the five continents basically  
as well as some special places  
Such as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal  
The sceneries in the Pacific Ocean and Alaska are very fascinating!

**Host :** Great! I do think your friends of the same age  
have yet been to these places  
So Sing, you must have sent a lot of post cards

**Sing :** Indeed  
My friends have received quite a lot

**Host :** Seafaring is not an easy job  
You cannot attain the highest level in one step  
It is really not easy to leave your hometown  
When you feel lonely, look at the endless sky  
and move on with conviction.  
As long as you work hard  
you will absolutely succeed someday

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