

# Maritime Week to underscore Hong Kong's prominence

*Hong Kong will use its Maritime Week (HKMW) 2018 to reinforce the city's strategy to develop high-value-added maritime services, on top of its already acknowledged position as one of the world's most significant maritime hubs.*

The week, from 18-24 November, jointly organised by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, aims to unite and showcase the Hong Kong maritime industry as a strong cluster, raise the community's awareness of the significant economic contributions of Hong Kong's maritime and port industries, and promote Hong Kong as a preferred base for operating maritime business.

HKMW 2018 will occur against a backdrop of thriving investment in the region. Hong Kong ranks 5th in 2017 according to "Lloyd's List's 100 Ports 2018" <http://bit.ly/HKChina2018>, and the latest annual "Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report" ranks Hong Kong as the world's second-best port city <http://bit.ly/HKLDN2018>. The Baltic said shipping centres in APAC maintain a strong growth trend, with Hong Kong boosted by the Belt and Road Initiative.

As one of the busiest ports in the world, Hong Kong handled 20.8 million TEUs in 2017, with 9.6% of the world's merchant fleet owned or managed by its ship owners and a vibrant cluster of some 800 maritime companies operating in Hong Kong. This active maritime community offer a myriad of high-value-added services such as ship management, shipbroking and chartering, shipping finance, marine insurance, maritime legal and arbitration services. Strategically located at the heart of Asia, Hong Kong plays the role of a "super-connector" between China and the rest of the world. Hong Kong maintains sea-cargo operations with 74 countries along the Belt and Road corridors. With frequent schedules of liner services and connectivity to some 470 destinations, the Hong Kong Port is a major trans-shipment hub in the region.

Hong Kong's active infrastructural investment should ensure continued growth. One major project, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB),



Hong Kong landscape

serves to improve the connectivity thereby enhancing the cargo flow from the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region — especially from the cargo sources on the western side of the delta — to Hong Kong. The bridge, once commissioned, will provide an effective additional conduit on top of the current barge services.

HZMB will also help to reinforce the economic integration between Hong Kong and the PRD region and enhance the competitiveness of the PRD vis-a-vis other economic zones in Asia-Pacific. With the HZMB, travelling distance and time between Zhuhai and Hong Kong will be greatly reduced, thus effectively expanding Hong Kong's cargo hinterland to the western part of the PRD and strengthening Hong Kong's role as an international maritime centre and regional logistics hub in the Greater Bay Area.

HKMW 2018 will deliver some 50 activities under themes: Marine Insurance; Ship Finance; Maritime Law & Arbitration; Maritime Technology; Port & Logistics; Ship Management and Shipping & Maritime, Education & Career. Key international events – in addition to the Lloyd's List Business Briefing on 19 November evaluating the territory's maritime diversification – will include the anchor activity, a two-day Asian Logistics & Maritime Conference (ALMC), and the 2nd Mare Forum Hong Kong for service providers and users, financiers, manufacturers, shippers and brand owners to examine maritime trends and opportunities in Hong Kong and Asia.

HKMPB also co-organises with Maritime London to stage a half-day activity titled "Hong Kong-London Maritime Day" for maritime professionals in both places to forge

closer collaboration in promoting the maritime industry and high value-added maritime services. There are more activities that are tailored for the international maritime community from around the world. HKMW's opening ceremony will be held at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park on the morning of 19 November, followed by an orienteering race. With the magnificent Victoria Harbour view as the backdrop, industry dignitaries and practitioners, government officials, as well as race runners will celebrate the opening of the HKMW together.

The week will be supported by a number of international and well-known maritime organisations and businesses, among them are ABS, BIMCO, DNVGL, John Mayer Brown, Lloyd's List, Lloyd's Register, Marine Money, and Norton Rose Fulbright. Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, announced her second Policy Address recently. On maritime and port, while acknowledging the fierce competition from neighbouring ports and ports in the region facing Hong Kong, she has provided a solution to boost the sector through further development of "high value-added maritime services" in areas such as ship leasing and marine insurance which have huge growth potentials. Hong Kong will capitalise on its advantages, including the wide range of maritime services offered by some 800 local and overseas maritime-related companies, a rich array of world-class expertise and experience, a top-notch infrastructure, together with the huge business opportunities brought by the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the "Greater Bay Area" development, to sustain the further growth of the maritime sector.