

新聞稿

PRESS RELEASE



HONG KONG
maritime
museum
香港海事博物館



DAY OF THE
SEAFARER
—25 JUNE—

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) celebrates International Day of the Seafarer and backs new social media campaign for seafarers to be designated as key workers.

Hong Kong, 23 June 2020 - Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) will mark International Day of the Seafarer with free admission to a special family activity day on Thursday 25 June and a social media campaign urging people to support the call for seafarers to be recognized as key workers using the hashtag *#SeafarersAreKeyWorkers*.

This year's Day of the Seafarer campaign is particularly pertinent because of the impact of global COVID-19 lockdown restrictions which have resulted in tens of thousands of seafarers being stranded at sea for months, unsure of when they might be allowed to disembark from their ships and return home to their families. The campaign initiated by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) calls on states to recognize seafarers as key workers – and to provide them with the support, assistance and travel options open to all key workers during the pandemic.

“The city of Hong Kong was built on maritime trade and we want to show solidarity with seafarers and recognize the vital job they do for world trade and for all of us at this very difficult time,” said Richard Wesley Museum Director of the HKMM.

Some 1.2 million seafarers are estimated to be serving on more than 55,000 ships across the world. They are working to ensure that countries are kept supplied with vital food, fuel, and other goods including the supply of vital medical equipment, to combat the pandemic. Every month about 200,000 seafarers need to be relieved and replaced to ensure safe and sustainable working standards on board, and to allow them to take well-earned shore leave at home with their families. Such crew changes represent logistical challenges at the best of times but, with no exemptions for seafarers, it has for several months been almost impossible for shipping companies to get their weary crews home despite all efforts to do so. Some crew members working for Hong Kong shipping companies have been at sea for over a year without relief – serving well beyond their contract periods – imposing a potential risk to their mental health and wellbeing.

“Not being able to tell their children when they are coming home has serious implications on morale and mental health - this really hits the seafarers,” said Captain Hrisheet Barve, of Anglo-Eastern shipping who recently arrived home after more than seven and a half months at sea.

The Hong Kong SAR government recently took the lead by approving safe crew change protocols that will avoid the need for seafarers to undergo local quarantine procedures.

“We just want more ports around the world to reconsider seafarers as key workers and exempt them from some of the draconian travel restrictions - they need to work during lockdown just like health-workers, aircrew or emergency services,” said Bjorn Hojgaard, Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners association (HKSOA).

香港海事博物館 HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM

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(Hong Kong Maritime Museum is incorporated with limited liability)

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This year, Day of the Seafarer will be marked by a special programme at HKMM organised in partnership with the Hong Kong Seamen's Union, and admission to the Museum's fifteen galleries is free, subject to limits on attendee numbers based on public health guidelines. The event allows the public to learn more about the life of a seafarer and the essential job they do moving more than 90% of the world's cargo around the globe. The programme includes children's games, a maritime KOL video loop and a seafarer's information booth, and free souvenirs will be distributed subject to availability. Full details of the Day of the Seafarer event can be found at <https://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/eng> and the HKMM social media campaign can be followed via Twitter [@HKMMP8](https://twitter.com/HKMMP8)

Click [here](#) to download images

Visitors' Information on 25 June 2020 (Thursday, Tuen Ng Festival)

Opening hours:	10:00 – 19:00 (Free entry. Admission closes at 18:30)
Venue:	Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier No. 8, Hong Kong (next to the Observation Wheel)
Enquiries:	+852 3713 2500
Website:	www.hkmaritimemuseum.org
Instagram:	@hongkongmaritimemuseum
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/HKMaritimeMuseum/

About Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) was founded by members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association committed to helping the Hong Kong community and visitors to Hong Kong explore the city's unique maritime heritage. HKMM was named as a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Top 10 Museum in China in 2017, and is an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, private individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government. HKMM is a cultural institution that tells the story of trade and maritime history in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and the vital roles ships and the sea play in our past, present and future.

The Museum opened its door to the public at Murray House in Stanley in 2005 and relocated to Central Pier No. 8 in the heart of the Central Harbour Waterfront in 2013. Today the Museum displays about 1,000 objects in 15 galleries, attracting about 130,000 visitors annually. HKMM also houses various event spaces, resource centre, a roof-top social enterprise café, and gift shop that contribute to visitors' experiences. HKMM engages with the community of Hong Kong by actively engaging in education and public programming offered to schools, adults, community groups and families.

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