

新聞稿

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

New Chairman takes the helm of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Hong Kong, 3 August 2020 - The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) is delighted to announce the appointment of distinguished international shipping and education executive, Mr Richard Hext, as its new chairman with effect from Tuesday, August 4.

Mr. Hext, a long-time Hong Kong resident, is a non-executive director of Hong Kong-based Anglo Eastern Univan Group and of Swire's Singapore-based China Navigation Company, and is chairman of Vanmar Shipping. He is also a governor of the University of Central Lancashire in the UK and a member of the Hong Kong advisory board of Stanford University's graduate school of business. He is a past director of John Swire and Sons (HK), chief executive of Hong Kong-listed Pacific Basin Shipping and chairman of Univan Ship Management. He holds an MA in modern history and economics from Oxford University and maintains an avid interest in the maritime history and culture of China and East Asia.

The new chairman succeeds Mr Ian Shiu, who in turn has been proposed to succeed as Chair of the Endowment Trust after five successful years as museum chairman. During Mr. Shiu's tenure, the Museum broadened its financial base, strengthened its links with Government and increased visitor numbers by nearly 40%. Mr. Shiu also oversaw the execution of several extremely well-received exhibitions, including *The Silver Age* and Maritime Silk Road exhibition, *East Meets West*.

Mr Hext commented, "What a story! Fishing village dubs itself 'Fragrant Harbour' and reinvents itself - first as a shipping and trading centre, then as world champion *east-meets-west* financial centre. The HKMM tells us how all this happened, helping us anticipate our future and what else the sea has in store for us. The museum is already a phenomenal success story and I am very excited about this chance to help it realise its extraordinary potential."

The HKMM also has advanced plans for a new marine science educational facility within the existing Museum site at Pier 8 on the Central waterfront. "If properly implemented, this proposal will substantially broaden the scope of the Museum whilst also greatly increasing our visitor numbers, our profile and our educational impact," said Mr Hext who regards the HKMM as an outstanding example of a public private partnership for community good.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Richard Hext as Chairman of HKMM and believe his background and extensive experience in shipping and education offers us the perfect attributes to advance our ambitious plans for the HKMM," said Museum Director, Mr. Richard Wesley.

"I am hugely grateful for the efforts of Ian Shiu as well as CC Tung, Chairman of the HKMM Trust, in ensuring a smooth transition and bringing in Richard to help us build the future of our wonderful Museum," said Mr. Wesley.

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(Hong Kong Maritime Museum is incorporated with limited liability)

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About Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) was founded by members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association to help Hong Kong residents and visitors to the City explore its 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. The HKMM is a cultural institution that tells the stories of Hong Kong's relationship with the sea, including the trades between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta and the World, and the vital roles played by so many ships in those stories.

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 over 1,200 objects in 15 galleries, attracting about 130,000 visitors annually. The HKMM also houses various event spaces, a resource centre, its rooftop (social enterprise) Café 8 which enjoys wonderful harbour views, and a gift shop. The HKMM engages with the community of Hong Kong by providing education and public programming to schools, adults, community groups and families.

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