



eMARINA

The quarterly newsletter of
The Hong Kong Joint Branch of The Royal Institution of Naval Architects
and The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology,
and The Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology
皇家造船師學會暨輪機工程及海事科技學會香港聯合分會
及香港海事科技學會季刊

Vol. 2 April-July 2026

HKJB & HKIMT Activities

Joint Technical Visit to the Electric Ferry "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX (新明珠 39)" and its Charging Facility at North Point (West) Ferry Pier on 18 April 2026

On 18 April 2026 (Saturday), the Hong Kong Joint Branch of RINA & IMarEST (HKJB), and the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology (HKIMT) collaborated with the HKIE MMNC to arrange a technical visit to Hong Kong's pioneering electric ferry, the "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX (新明珠 39)", run by Sun Ferry Services Company. The visit was led by Mr. Alfred Chan and Mr. Martin Li.



HKJB & HKIMT members assembled

Participants gathered at the North Point (West) Ferry Pier during the morning and were welcomed by a Senior Engineer from Sun Ferry Services Company, who acted as host and generously recounted the firm's engineering knowledge and operating experience.

Delivered as the first craft under the Government's Pilot Scheme (Hong Kong's Environmental Protection Department) for Electric Ferries, a programme introduced in 2021. The "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX" has finished its sea trials and is steadily ramping up the number of sailings it makes on the North Point - Hung Hom route. Measuring 35 metres in length and constructed from carbon fiber by Guangdong Sinoway Composite Materials Co., Ltd. at a cost of around HK\$65 million, the vessel carries as many as 400 passengers, roughly a quarter more than the operator's conventional boats. Because the carbon fiber hull weighs about 70% less than a traditional one, the ferry achieves notable improvements in performance and energy efficiency.



Hong Kong's pioneering electric ferry, the "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX", docked alongside its shore charging equipment.

Power is supplied by six high-performance lithium iron phosphate battery packs arranged in parallel, served by charging equipment at the North Point Ferry Terminal. A single charge of roughly eight hours sustains up to 12 hours of daily service and as many as 52 one-way crossings before the batteries need replenishing. Set against conventional diesel vessels, the electric ferry runs quietly, produces no emissions and uses energy far more efficiently.



A speaker delivered a technical presentation on the electric vessel's layout and propulsion systems.

After a safety briefing, the visitors boarded the "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX", which lay alongside the North Point Pier. The tour began at the navigation bridge, where the host led everyone through the vessel's navigational equipment, comprising the radar and the electronic chart system. One distinctive feature is the dual steering arrangement, which allows the coxswain to control the vessel from whichever side is convenient when berthing.

The visitors subsequently moved to the engine room to look over the electric propulsion plant, the battery management system, the charging arrangement and the performance monitoring equipment. The host also showed how the shore charging facility works and described how charging is timed around the ferry's daily sailing pattern.

Over the course of the visit, members engaged in lively exchanges on the vessel's engineering and operational characteristics, touching on battery safety and thermal management, maintenance routines, and the company's approach to nurturing the long-term growth of electric ferries in the local setting.



Members inspected the navigation bridge and solar panel layout on the upper deck.

Proceedings wrapped up around midday, with attendees showing strong enthusiasm for the vessel's novel systems and its prospects ahead. The team presented a commemorative plaque to Sun Ferry Services as a token of appreciation. Heartfelt thanks went to Sun Ferry Services for its hospitality, and especially to the host engineer for his clear explanations and gracious reception. Overall, the visit gave participants a meaningful glimpse of a major change taking shape in Hong Kong's maritime sector and proved a thoroughly rewarding experience.

(Reported by Mr M.T. Yau)

HKJB and HKIMT Participation in the HKIE-MMNC 47th Annual Dinner on 7 May 2026

HKIMT and HKJB fielded a team of 12 members at the HKIE-MMNC 47th Annual Dinner held on 7 May 2026 at Hotel ICON, Tsim Sha Tsui. In addition, several other HKJB and HKIMT members attended the event in their individual capacities, including Past Chairmen of HKIE-MMNC: Ir Francis Law, Ir K.S. Szeto, Ir Alan Tsang, Ir M.Y. Chan, and Ir Stanley Lui.

HKJB, HKIMT, and HKIE-MMNC have maintained close collaboration for many years. Under the leadership of HKIE-MMNC Past Chairman Ir Louis Lau (Session 2025–2026), the three institutions successfully organised and completed numerous major joint events. These included the STEM Marine Vehicle Design and Construction Competition for secondary and primary schools, the Annual Friendship Football Match with the Guangdong Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (GDSNAME) cum Technical Visit in Guangzhou, the Pan Asia Association of Maritime Engineering Societies – Advanced Maritime Engineering Conference 2025 in Singapore, and the Hong Kong Maritime Week Joint Half-Day Technical Seminar held at the HKIE Headquarters.

At the Annual Dinner, HKJB and HKIMT congratulated to the newly elected HKIE-MMNC Chairman, Ir Dr K F Cheung, following his Inaugural Address. We look forward to sustaining this fruitful collaboration with HKIE-MMNC in the 2026–2027 session for the benefit of our members, the engineering profession, and society at large.



HKJB and HKIMT members attending the HKIE-MMNC 47th Annual Dinner at Hotel ICON

(Reported by Leslie Lee and Simon Chen)

Technical Visit to COSCO Shipping Heavy Industry (Guangdong) Co Ltd on 26 June 2026

HKIMT, HKJB and HKIE-MMNC jointly organised the captioned technical visit, with 35 participants, and was kindly supported by Guangdong Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (GDSNAME) on in-town transportation between Guangzhou and Dongguan. We were warmly received by the management of COSCO Shipping Heavy Industry (Guangdong) Co Ltd including Mr Liu Xiangwen, Deputy General Manager upon arrival at their shipyard in Dongguan. The visit highlights are as follows:

Enterprise Exhibition Hall

This exhibition hall highlights COSCO's major achievements in shipbuilding and marine engineering. Participants were impressed by the models of many prominent green projects, including the "Megawatt Floating Wave Energy Generator" with principal particulars as follows:



Megawatt Floating Wave Energy Generator - The "Nankun" (南鲲號)

Platform Length: 80m

Platform Width: 88m

Height of Top Deck above Baseline: 24m

Operating Draft: 13.5m

Design Life: 20 years

The platform was designed and built to CCS Class Rules, with a welded steel structure using AH36 high-strength steel plates, meeting requirements for a working environment between 0 and 45 degree Celsius and applicable depths between 30 and 100 metres in various sea-state conditions.

Shipyards Facilities Visit



Team photo at COSCO Shipping Heavy Industry (Guangdong) Co Ltd.

In addition to the bus tour of the vast shipyard area, participants walked through the hull fabrication workshop and visited its automatic steel-cutting and welding facilities. Internet of Things (IoT) applications were introduced:



Smart Production & Resource Tracking:

- Integrates Internet of Things (IoT) sensors with MES (Manufacturing Execution Systems) and BI (Business Intelligence) platforms to track the progress of ship repairs, modifications, and steel structure manufacturing in real-time.

Virtual Reality (VR) & Automated Training:

- Uses IoT-connected VR simulation systems in employee training rooms, allowing operators to practice marine vessel painting and other tasks in realistic, tactile environments while minimising material waste.

Intelligent Warehousing & Conveyance:

- Connects intelligent warehouses—featuring thousands of pallet positions and high-speed stacker cranes—to the centralised IoT network. This enables automated monitoring, precise resource allocation, and dynamic equipment scheduling.

Digital Twin & Lifecycle Management:

- Extends IoT functionality to the marine ecosystem via COSCO's Smart Sailing and iFlorens digital platforms. This enables tracking of ships and offshore equipment throughout their entire life cycle, monitoring emissions, and optimising vessel design.

Green and Low-Carbon Operations:

- Applies IoT data to closed-loop monitoring of ship energy consumption and Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) tracking, providing intelligent calculations and optimisation algorithms to reduce fuel usage.

Exchange Meeting



An exchange meeting discussing alternative fuel strategies.

The exchange meeting chaired by Mr Liu Xiangwen allowed all participants to exchange ideas and explore future opportunities together. Among many maritime hot topics, the application strategies for alternative fuels including electricity, ammonia, hydrogen etc., in Guangdong Province were introduced. The group also discussed the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, its challenges and opportunities, and the potential contributions of different maritime engineering institutions.

The fruitful visit ended with a courtesy lunch hosted by COSCH Shipping Heavy Industry (Guangdong) Co., Ltd. at its in-house Canteen. The comfortable environment there allowed participants from Hong Kong, GDSNAME and COSCO staff to continue discussions on other technical topics in naval architecture and marine engineering.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Mr Liu Xiangwen, Deputy General Manager of COSCO Shipping Heavy Industry (Guangdong) Co Ltd, for hosting this technical visit, and Mr Liang Zhaoye, Secretary General of GDSNAME, for facilitating this technical visit.

(Reported by MT Yau and Leslie Lee)

Annual Friendship Football Match with GDSNAME at Guangzhou Maritime University on 26 June 2026

On 26 June 2026, representatives from HKIMT, HKJB, HKIE-MMNC, together with Mr. Lei Veng Seng from the Government Dockyard of Macao, formed a joint team to participate in the annual football match hosted by the Guangdong Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (GDSNAME) and Guangzhou Maritime University (GMU).



The joint football team posed alongside hosts at Guangzhou Maritime University.

The event was held at the GMU football pitch, where the joint team faced the strong GDSNAME side. Despite the intense summer heat, the match was played in high spirits and showcased teamwork, camaraderie, and sporting exchange. After a competitive game, the joint team secured a 2-1 victory, highlighted by spirited play and a decisive goal in the final quarter.

We extend our gratitude to GDSNAME and GMU for hosting this annual friendship match, and to Neptune Marine Ltd for generously providing team uniforms to the Joint HKIMT/HKJB/MMNC/Macao Football Team.

(Reported by MT Yau and Leslie Lee)

HKJB and HKIMT Joint Chairmen Cocktail Reception 2026

This year, the HKJB and HKIMT joint Chairmen Cocktail Reception was held at the Ballroom of The Mariners from 18:30 to 21:30 on 24 July 2026. The event drew a distinguished gathering of prominent figures from across the maritime community, including representatives from the Government, ship owners and ship management companies, classification societies, marine suppliers, shipyards, ship builders, ship repairers and many more from our members and their partners. Nearly 132 guests attended the reception.



Master of Ceremony - Mr Wing Hay Tsang and Ms. Catherine Fok

Masters of Ceremony, Mr. Wing-Hay Tsang and Ms. Catherine Fok expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the institutes to the generous supporters and sponsors, whose support made the reception successful. They then announced the opening of the cocktail reception.



Chairmen of HKJB (Left), Mr Leslie Lee, and HKIMT (Right), Mr Ernest Chan, delivered the speeches.

Amidst warm applause, Mr Leslie Lee – Chairman of HKJB of RINA & IMarEST and Mr Ernest Chan – Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology, delivered brief opening remarks to mark the start of the reception, expressing their appreciation to all those present, while both speeches were warmly received with applause, setting a positive and welcoming tone for the evening.

Live Musical Performance by the Seafarer Band "United"

The live band "United", formed by talented seafarers, delivered an outstanding and memorable performance throughout the reception. The lineup featured Eric NG on lead guitar, Kuma FU on bass guitar and vocals, Raymond YU on drums and vocals, Leslie LEE on guitar and alto saxophone, and M.Y. CHAN, who composed the melody and lyrics for the band's original songs. Their energetic set included inspiring tracks like "發熱發光" (Glow), highlighting memorable lines such as "浪破浪 / 未理會前路風霜" and "望遠方的天邊 / 紅日升起灑滿了希望", alongside "新的一天" (A New Day), which encouraged the audience with sentiments like "茫茫人生中崎嶇旅程 / 浮沉人海中不必怨命" and "大地讓我闖過 / 到處是迷人風景 / 新的一天全獲勝".



The live band "United"—formed by marine fellow, Leslie Lee, Eric Ng, Kuma Fu, Raymond YU and M.Y. CHAN—delivering an engaging musical performance during the HKJB & HKIMT Joint Chairmen Cocktail Reception 2026.



The evening offered an excellent opportunity for networking and exchange, underscoring the powerful sense of community within Hong Kong's maritime sector. Guests enjoyed fine refreshments and entertainment, with a stage performance adding a festive highlight to the night.

Amid the warm and friendly atmosphere, complemented by wonderful music and delicious food, attendees took full advantage of the chance to reconnect with friends and engage with industry peers. Overall, the reception was a resounding success and ended at 10:00 p.m.

(Reported by Louis Chan)

STANDING BY SEAFARERS

Counting seafarers' amenities in Hong Kong, The Mariners is surly on the list, because it is the dedicated transient accommodation for joiners and leavers since 1862. The current The Mariners, addressed 11 Middle Road, Kowloon, features 75 en-suite guest rooms, a restaurant, a coffee lounge and bar, five function rooms, a gymnasium and an outdoor swimming pool. All these facilities may need a fee to use; the only one all-time free for use is Chapel on the second floor. It is the domicile of Saint Peter's Seafarers' Church ("St. Peter's"), the local Anglican denomination under Hong Kong Shing Kung Hui to serve the seafarers taking transient stays in The Mariners, as well as every practitioner in the local maritime industry.



On invitation, Chairman of HKJB, Mr. Leslie LEE (right) and Hon. Secretary of HKIMT, Mr. Wing-Hay TSANG (middle) attended St. Peter's first Sea Sunday service

Since its consecration in September 2025, it holds Christian service in English at 09:30 every Sunday, including its first Sea Sunday service on 12 July 2026, the second Sunday in July of the year. The sole operator of The Mariners, The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers ("The Mission") invited HKIMT to join Sea Sunday service in St. Peter's, recognising the seafarers' vital work and contributions to the livelihood and prosperity of Hong Kong and the globe, with prayer to God specially for seafarers and encouragements from Holy Bible.

Wars and military conflicts on land often affect the waters nearby. The seafarers on vessels in the Persian Gulf, Black Sea and Middle East are especially vulnerable to attacks from shore. Their fear for injury or even death, anxiety over the prolonged circumstance and desire for safety and returning home are tangible, with which Christians in St. Peter's Sea Sunday service interceded God.

Also in the sermon, the celebrant, Revd. Andrew Dangerfield, reminded the Mission ministries that, aside from operating The Mariners, were in two folds: serve the physical welfare of seafarers and support them in their spirituality in accordance with Christian biblical doctrine. All work should point towards betterment of seafarers in body, in heart and in spirit – the objective of The Mission.

Irrespective of religious faith, care for others is a universal ritual. Seafarers are never alone in facing all negative emotions and imminent physical needs, because they may be assured that Christian churches are always there

to listen to and support them. They are a community consistently remembered, acknowledged and loved. One day the Hong Kong port is functioning, one day The Mission is in action of caring for them there.

Whenever you wish to have a solitary moment and happen to be around Middle Road, press '2' on a lift in The Mariners – St. Peter's is open for you.



Attendees of St. Peter's first Sea Sunday service on 12 July 2026

(Reported by Wing-Hay Tsang)

HKJB & HKIMT Coming Activities

Date	Event
7 Nov, 2026	Annual Ball 2026 of HKIMT and HKJB of RINA & ImarEST
15 Nov, 2026	HKIMT/HKJB/HKIE-MMNC Joint Technical Seminar in HKMW 2026 at HKIE HQ
15-21 Nov, 2026	Hong Kong Maritime Week
16-18 Dec, 2026	The 12 th INMEX China 2026 at Guangzhou

HKIMT Council Office Bearers

Hon. President:	KOO David
Hon. Vice President:	Ir LAW M.H. Francis
Chairman:	Ernest Chan
Vice Chairman:	LEE Yiu Kit Leslie
Hon. Secretary:	TSANG Wing Hay
Assistant Hon. Secretary:	Dr. FUNG Ka Shuen
Hon. Treasurer:	NG Ngai Wing, Jammy

HK JB Committee Office Bearers

Chairman:	LEE Yiu Kit Leslie
Vice Chairman:	Miller HUI
Hon. Secretary:	FUNG Chun Yin, Ian
Assistant Hon. Secretary:	C F LEUNG, Thomas
Hon. Treasurer:	TANG Kwong Fai

Disclaimer

Any views or opinions expressed in the articles of eMARINA are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology or the Hong Kong Joint Branch of RINA & IMarEST. The Joint Editorial Committee of both institutes cannot accept the responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in the articles published in eMARINA. These articles are published in good faith.

Download Websites

<https://www.imarest.org/local-communities/asia-pacific/hong-kong-joint>; and
<http://www.hkimt.org.hk/publication.html>.



Enquiry

Hon Secretary, Hong Kong Joint Branch
of RINA and IMarEST, G.P.O. Box 2516,
Central, Hong Kong