



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

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HKJB & HKIMT Activities

Joint Technical Visit to the electric ferry of Sun Ferry on 14 June 2025

The Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology (HKIMT), the Hong Kong Joint Branch of RINA & IMarEST, and the HKIE-MMNC Division jointly organized a technical visit on 14 June 2025 to the Hong Kong's first electric ferry, "Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX" (新明珠 39), operated by Sun Ferry Services Company. The visit was led by Mr. Ian Fung, Honorary Secretary of the HKJB Committee.

Members from the three societies assembled at the Sun Ferry Shipyard early in the morning, where they were greeted by Mr. Yau, Senior Engineer of Sun Ferry Services Company.



Members assembled at the Sun Ferry Shipyard



"Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX" is the first under a government pilot scheme for electric ferries that was launched in 2021. Having completed sea trials, Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX is gradually increasing its service frequency to three days a week on the North Point–Hung Hom route. The 35-meter-long carbon fiber ferry, built by Guangdong Sinoway Composite Materials Co., Ltd. at a cost of HK\$65 million, can accommodate up to 400 passengers, approximately 25% more than the company's current ferries. The carbon fiber hull is approximately 70% lighter, contributing to overall performance gains.

It is equipped with six high-performance lithium iron phosphate battery packs connected in parallel, with charging facilities installed at the North Point Ferry Terminal. After eight hours of charging, the ferry can operate for up to 12 hours per day and can make up to 52 single trips without recharging. Compared to traditional diesel-powered vessels, this electric ferry offers many advantages: quiet operation, zero emissions, greater energy efficiency.



Following a safety briefing, the group led by Mr Yau boarded the “Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX” which was berthed beside the shipyard. The group first visited the navigation bridge, where Mr. Yau introduced the vessel’s navigational technologies, including Radar, Electronic chart system, and Depth echo-sounder. A notable feature of the ferry is its dual steering controls system, which enables the coxswain to maneuver from either side during berthing operations. The group then proceeded to the engine room to examine the electric propulsion system, battery management system, charging system, and performance monitoring systems.

The group boards the “Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX”



Mr. Yau introducing the design of “Xin Ming Zhu XXXIX” at navigation bridge



Mr. Yau demonstrated the operation of the associated charging facility

The visit concluded around noon. Attendees expressed keen interest in the vessel’s innovative systems and future operations. Sincere appreciation was extended to Sun Ferry Services for hosting the event, and especially to Mr. Yau for his informative guidance and warm hospitality. The visit offered valuable exposure to a transformative shift in the local maritime landscape, making it an enlightening experience for all involved.



HKIMT Representative presenting memento plaque to Sun Ferry Service

(Reported by Louis Chan)

Joint Technical Visit to Guangzhou on 5 July 2025



HKIMT Chairman, HKJB Chairman and MMNC Representative visited GDSNAME on 5th Jul. 2025

The HKIMT, HKJB of RINA & IMarEST and HKIE-MMNC Division jointly organised the captioned visit to Risong Intelligent Technology Holding Co Ltd and Guangdong Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (GDSNAME, 廣東造船工程學會) in Guangzhou on 5 July 2025. HKIMT Chairman Mr. Ernest Chan led the Joint HKIMT / HKJB / MMNC Delegation with HKJB Chairman Mr. Leslie Lee and MMNC Representative Dr. Catter To. There was a total of 26 persons participating this event.

Technical Visit to Guangzhou Risong Intelligent Technology Holding Co Ltd

In the morning, the Joint Institutes Delegation assembled at Guangzhou South Train Station. GDSNAME kindly arranged a coach for courtesy transportation of our members to Guangzhou Risong Intelligent Technology Holding Co Ltd located in Huangpu District. We had the pleasure of having Risong Director Mr. Sun Wenyan hosting the visit in person for our members. It was really a privilege for us to visit the state of the art digital experience centre and various advanced manufacturing processes including Intelligent flexible assembly and adjustment for automotive closures, intelligent flexible welding and assembly line for body in white (BIW), intelligent welding equipment for high-quality light materials, recognition system based on AI industrial machine vision core algorithm, deep learning training platform based on industrial automation machine vision, AI intelligent welding defect detection system and AI 3D inspection system for engraved characters.



Members visiting Intelligent flexible assembly in Guangzhou
Risong Intelligent Technology Holding Co Ltd



Participants in the excursion

After the morning visit, we had complimentary buffet lunch at Risong Canteen which exhibited the intelligent way of calculating total food amount collected in the Smart Tray with unique QR Code. The ancillary equipment could assist individuals' diet and cost control as per their own needs. All participants were impressed by this smart dining experience at Risong Canteen. This experience really exceeded our expectation.



Represent HKIMT/HKJB/MMNC to present memento plaque to GDSNAME

Annual Football Match with Guangdong Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (GDSNAME)



The Joint Institutions football team comprising HKJB, HKIMT, HKIE-MMNC

In the afternoon, the Joint HKIMT/HKJB/MMNC Football Team participated the Annual Friendship Football Match with GDSNAME Football Team at CSSC Huangpu Wengchong Shipyard Football Field. In a match marked by heat and shifting weather, both teams showed remarkable tenacity and teamwork, keeping the contest evenly matched throughout. The Joint HKIMT/HKJB/MMNC team held strong to claim victory with a final score of 4-3.

A get-together dinner with other GDSNAME members was arranged immediately after the friendship football match. The prior football match was just like a catalyst enhancing the atmosphere, discussion and friendship among participants with GDSNAME of total 40 people in 4 tables.



Both GDSNAME and HKIMT/HKJB/MMNC members agreed to continue such good traditional annual football match regularly in the coming years. Last but not least, we would like to thank the unfailing support from Neptune Marine Ltd for sponsorship of the football team uniforms consecutively for two years.

(Reported by Mr. M T Yau)

HKJB and HKIMT Joint Chairmen Cocktail Reception 2025

This year, the HKJB and HKIMT joint Chairmen Cocktail Reception was held at the Shanghai & Lipton Rooms of The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. on 03 July 2025. Many prominent figures in the maritime industry attended the reception. These persons included Hon. Frankie YINK Shi Ming – member of Legislative Council, Mr. Luis SHI – Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. Sanjeev Verma – Chairman of Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Hong Kong Branch, Mr. LAU Wai Kin – Chairman of HKIE MMNC, Ms. Janet LAM – Chairman of The Hong Kong Institution of Mechanical Engineers and many more 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.



Master of Ceremony - Mr. Sharad Gupta & Ms. Catherine Fok

Nearly 115 guests attended the reception. Master of Ceremony – Mr. Sharad Gupta expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the institutes to the generous supporters and sponsors to the reception without which the reception would not be so successful. He then announced the opening of the cocktail reception.

At the Reception, an award of Honorary Fellowship was presented to Mr. David Koo in recognition of his distinguished service and exceptional leadership as Honorary President of the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology. Conferred by virtue of the Institute's Council, the award highlights Mr. Koo's unwavering commitment and valued contributions to the growth and excellence of the Hong Kong's maritime community.



Chairman of HKIMT present the Honorary Fellowship to Mr. David Koo

Chairmen of HKJB (Left) and HKIMT (Right) delivered the speeches



Mr. Leslie Lee – Chairman of HKJB of RINA & IMarEST and Mr. Ernest Chan – Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology gave short speeches on the professional training program for young talents and the STEMS program for secondary students respectively to mark the opening of the event. Participants were reminded to take note of - 28 November 2025, which would be the date of our next Annual Ball. Various types of refreshments and delicious finger snacks were served during the event.



All participants while enjoying the friendly atmosphere and the cozy environment created by the ensemble and the food also took this wonderful opportunity to network with their friends and their counterparts in the industry. The reception turned out to be a very successful event. It was finally closed at 10:00 p.m.

Strings Duet in Harmony



Flavor of the Reception



Participants





VOTE OF THANKS TO SPONSORS

The Chairman of HKJB of RINA & IMarEST, Chairman of HKIMT and Chairman of the Organizing Committee expressed their heartfelt thanks for generous supports of the followings:

Gold: VALLES STEAMSHIP CO. LTD.

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AT SEA REMEMBERED



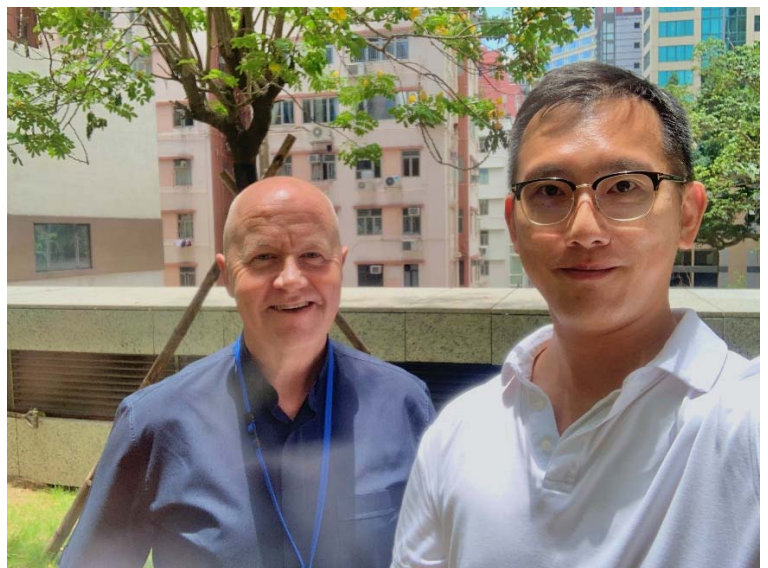
200 Seat chapel in The Mariners

Over 80 % of world trade volume is carried by sea, involving about 1.9 million seafarers. Behind then are the same number of families. Though emotional challenges of both seafarers and their loved ones on shore, physically separated from each other often for prolonged periods, are by no means small and may not have been well understood, they are for certain not alone.

Every second Sunday in July, Christian churches across the world dedicate their Sunday service to remember the seafarers and the workers away from home and their family. In prayer and sermon, Christians are reminded the contributions of seafarers to mankind and the sacrifice of theirs and their family and pray God for protection and comfort in their heart. This is Sea Sunday.

Looking after needs of seafarers and their family

According to The Revd. Canon Stephen Miller, Senior Chaplain of Mission to Seafarers Hong Kong ("MSHK"), before 1970s, most of the seafarers on the merchant naval vessels were Europeans and Christian organisations established ministries across European ports to take care of their welfare. These like-minded organisations in various countries formed International Christian Maritime Association ("ICMA") to foster efforts in serving seafarers across regions. Sea Sunday was the fruit of ICMA advocate, and Sea Sunday was first celebrated by Church of England in 1975. Mission to Seafarers ("MtS"), an ICMA member, is active in rendering spiritual and pastoral supports to and in advocating good well-being of seafarers and their family, not only in ports with strong U.K. influence, but also ports in the Asian countries, such as Indonesia and the Philippines.



Revd. Canon Stephen Miller (Left) outside his office in The Mariners

Nowadays seafarers often come from developing countries, where provision of social security and pension is less established. While they are often the pillar of income of their family, their family members, however, may have little concept about preparing for retirement. MtS provides education to their family members on financial management, especially on saving such that, saving is an allocation of the salary before expenditures and not the proceeds of all spendings. In doing so, with proactive saving consistently, seafarers and their family may be in a better financial position when one day they may be less capable of working at sea.

Also, modern merchant vessels are well connected to the internet and seamen can stay connected with their family on-line. Being away from home for long, seafarers may become more sensitive to the news from home, very often through social media during their voyages. Even trivial matters at home may provoke their emotion when they are in the middle of an ocean. MtS in its 'WeCare' campaign educates their family members to be considerate in disclosing home matters on social media, in order that they may not be distracted by non-essential news from home and they be subject to no unnecessary emotional pressure.

By statistics, male adults in age between 25 and 40 are more likely to contemplate suicide. At sea, the impact of suicide on crew on board is higher than ever, with the modern merchant vessels being more automated and keeping very lean workforce. The sudden loss of a person due to suicide not only does immediately and significantly reduce manpower, but also greatly affects the morale of the remaining crew members. The negative impact on productivity and even safety of the team cannot be underestimated.

In response, MtS advocates raising awareness to suicide with its 'SafeTalk' initiative. Trainings are provided to seafarers on early identifying signs of suicidal thoughts on their work peers, such as behavioural changes, and responding to them. Simultaneously, MtS ministry workers visit ships in the terminals and at anchor and render spiritual and pastoral care and support to the crew members at their work location. Asides providing support with amenities, MtS ministry workers or ship visitors pay special attention to the emotional conditions of the crew members and provide counsel if needed. Very often, simply rendering a listening ear is sufficient to dilute the suicidal contemplation and hence effectively avoid a tragedy from happening.

Better seafarers' welfare, better shipping industry

On the surface, above campaigns and other seafarer-focus ministries may appear indirect to shipping operations; yet they are valuable to improving seafarers' safety and productivity. The shipping industry recognizes that modern merchant fleets, albeit lower unit operating costs, are more costly to purchase and costs of accidents have become higher; so have been insurance costs. MtS ministries facilitate a healthier and happier merchant workforce, which positively impacts the reduction in losses and costs and also aids increasing crew productivity, these factors are well recognized in the shipping industry. It is reflected by two-thirds of the total annual running cost of MtS comes from donations from the shipping industry, while the remaining one-third is from the Christian churches.

An area of seafarers' welfare is their transient accommodation. Either as joiners or leavers awaiting repatriation, they often need accommodation for a night or so in the port city. Hong Kong is a global hub of marine traffic, where crew changes take place frequently. MSHK is MtS largest operation and has involved in this ministry for 162 years. In September 2025, the fifth generation, state of the art accommodation will open to serve the seafarers again in Hong Kong after seven years of redevelopment. Occupying the lower 10 floors of the 50-storey tower in the heart of Kowloon peninsula, The Mariners will feature 75 en-suite guestrooms, a restaurant, a coffee lounge and bar, five function rooms, a gymnasium, an outdoor swimming pool and a 200 seat chapel.



Restaurant in The Mariners

Revd. Miller introduced the interior of The Mariners which is styled to resonate seafarers' desire of being on ground. Solid wood and wood colours are extensively used for furniture and decoration to create such environment, in addition to the facilities configured for relaxation and homeliness. Besides, The Mariners will be priced comparable to the hotel accommodations in other areas of the territory, such as Tsuen Wan, so that the shipping companies may be willing to place their crew in a location of excellent convenience.

In addition to his ministries in MSHK and developing MtS network in more Asian countries, Revd. Miller is also a member of Board of Directors of The Shipowners' Club, a major protection and indemnity insurance club. Leveraging his first-hand experiences in serving seafarers, he advocates the shipping industry to consider more to seafarers' well-being, especially to avoid fatigue. In particular, fatigue is not limited to the consequential state of occupational repetition of tasks, but also the uncertainty and even anxiety to continuous employment due to the shorter term of contract for seafarers. Crew stability, he argues, can help in retaining expertise and hence improving safety of personnel and vessel.

Cares to seafarers in action

MtS, MSHK and their peer organisations earnestly serve the seafarers and their loved ones across the world, with the Christian faith shared in common. Revd. Miller emphasises that acting so is the scriptural imperative according to Holy Bible. Versus 31 to 40 in Gospel of Matthew Chapter 25 are the biblical command for Christians to outreach those in need and, for ministries for seafarers he cites verse 36, *when I [Christ Jesus] was a prisoner and you visited me.*



Coffee lounge features wood and homely atmosphere

Seafarers in all kinds of hardships, physical, emotional and spiritual, Christians see need to respond. Therefore, the support and care to all seafarers they offer proactively irrespective of sex, ethnic race, religious belief, nationality and position in a vessel. Marine engineers have all the same needs of any seafarer when at sea, Revd. Miller says. As a result, when marine engineers reach Hong Kong, they are served by Christians dedicated to the ministries for seafarers in MSHK.

Christians' action of caring for seafarers in Hong Kong in 1862, with St. Peter's Church started The Sailors' Home at the junction of Western Street and Des Voeux Road West.

The Sailors' Home relocated to Johnston Road in 1910, 40 Gloucester Road in 1933 and the current address of 11 Middle Road, Kowloon, in 1966. Hardware may have evolved; yet software, the mission and objective, remains unchanged. Guided theologically under Hong Kong Shing Kung Hui, the Hong Kong Anglican Church ("HKSCH"), MSHK provides emotional and spiritual shelter for all seafarers coming and leaving Hong Kong. Christians stand side-by-side to seafarers always, in Hong Kong and beyond.

And Sea Sunday is open to all. Do join one in a nearby church of HKSCH, Roman Catholics or Lutheran (Danish and German) any second Sunday in July to come.

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(Reported by Tsang Wing Hay)

HKJB & HKIMT Coming Activities

Date	Event
17-18 November 2025	Asian Logistics, Maritime & Aviation Conference
19 November 2025	STEM Marine Vehicle Design and Construction Competition 2025-2026 Launching Ceremony
22 November 2025	HKJB/HKIMT/HKIE-MMNC Joint Technical Seminar for the Hong Kong Maritime Week (16-22/11/2025)
28 November 2025	2025 Joint Annual Ball
2-5 December 2025	Marintec China 2025 in Shanghai
10-12 December 2025	11th PAAMES / AMEC 2025 in Singapore

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