

HKCTOA Press Release (13 Jun 2017)

HKCTOA thanks Professor Anthony Cheung for his dedicated support, urges the Government and the industry to work closer in maintaining Hong Kong Port's competitiveness

(13 June 2017, Hong Kong) The Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association (HKCTOA) held a luncheon meeting today to communicate with industry stakeholders and government officials on the challenges and future development of Hong Kong Port.

One of the world's largest container vessels, *MOL TRIUMPH* with a carrying capacity of 20,170 TEU, called at Hong Kong Port in April this year. Another vessel of even bigger capacity will also call at Hong Kong in early July. The increasing deployment of mega-vessels by shipping lines shows, though presents both physical and operational challenges to the terminals, that Hong Kong Port's superior handling ability is once again recognized.

The recent reshuffling of shipping alliances poses another challenge to the container terminal industry. The larger alliances lead to higher volume peaks and troughs, which require terminals to react more efficiently on their combined complicated operational requests and evacuate large number of containers timely. In safeguarding the competitiveness of Hong Kong Port, HKCTOA is pleased to see the support from the government which is crucial for the industry players to turn the challenges into opportunities.

Transport and Housing Bureau put forward the "Proposals for Enhancing the Use of Port Back-up Land in Kwai Tsing" in mid-2015 to address the industry's needs, and initiated the "Study on the Strategic Development Plan for Hong Kong Port 2030". "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Transport and Housing Bureau and Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, Secretary for Transport and Housing, for the efforts and the continuous support giving to the terminals in the current term of administration. We hope that the directions he set for developing our Port will be taken up and excelled by his successor. In addition, we urge the Government and the industry to work even more closely to maintain the competitiveness of the Hong Kong Port," said Miss Jessie Chung, Chairperson of HKCTOA, at the luncheon.

The maritime and port industries are vital pillars of Hong Kong's economy. In 2016, they contribute 1.3% (HK\$29 billion) to Hong Kong's GDP and employ around 88 000 people, about 2.3% of Hong Kong's total employment.

Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB) has been set up by the government to foster the long term development of Hong Kong's maritime industry and port. With the concrete support from the Transport and Housing Bureau, HKMPB and the collaboration between industry stakeholders, HKCTOA believes that Hong Kong Port would continue to be the international maritime services hub in the region.

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