



For Immediate Release

Hong Kong hosts the Greater Bay Maritime Forum with extensive participation and cooperation agreements

November 2, 2021, Hong Kong ---- On 1 November, the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) hosted the inaugural Greater Bay Maritime Forum, with over 1,700 key personalities and stakeholders from the shipping community in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and many other parts of the world taking part, onsite or online, and two agreements for co-operation in the GBA signed.

Both the national 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA Outline Development Plan reaffirmed Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre, noted HKSOA Chairman Bjorn Hogjaard. He told the Forum audience in his welcome address that at this turning point in the new era, the Association considers it a great opportunity to set out a new vision for the shipping community, with a view to strengthening cross-sector and cross-city cooperation in the GBA, promoting the growth of the industry through knowledge and innovation, and consolidating Hong Kong's strategic position in the GBA – China – World axis.

The Forum, supported by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guangzhou Port Authority, featured four keynote speeches from Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam, GBM, GBS; from Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, GBM, GBS, SC, JP; from Ms Sabrina Chao, JP, President of the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO); and from Mr Sun Xiuqing, Director-General of the Guangzhou Port Authority. There were also expert panel discussions on three key topics: the integration of commercial principals and maritime services into the GBA, the transformation of the industry in the GBA through decarbonization and digitalization, and grooming talent and building a maritime culture in the GBA.

In her address, Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam told the audience that the Forum provided an ideal platform to share thoughts and insight on the development of the maritime sector, particularly how the sector could fully grasp the immense opportunities arising from the GBA development. She thanked the HKSOA and other industry partners, for working with the Government over the years in promoting Hong Kong's strengths, in promoting the application of technology, in tackling climate change and more, making Hong Kong an international maritime centre fully recognized by friends worldwide.

During the event, two memoranda of understanding were signed, one on co-operation and promotion of international maritime arbitration between the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Hong Kong Arbitration Center, the China Maritime Arbitration Commission Hong Kong Arbitration Center, the Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group, the Guangzhou Arbitration Court of International Shipping, and the Maritime Arbitration Center of Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration; and the other on cooperation in maritime development and training between the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) China Liaison Office, and the Guangdong Provincial Shipowners Association.

In her keynote speech, Secretary for Justice Ms Teresa Cheng said, “Today’s ceremony marks the beginning of a new era in maritime development, one whose future lies in stakeholders’ continued commitment to collaboration. I am confident that the maritime community will be able to sail together through this new era with common goals and shared prosperity.”

Both Ms Sabrina Chao, BIMCO President and Mr Esben Poulsson, ICS Chairman congratulated the Forum for enhancing cooperation between maritime sectors in the GBA, in the long-term interest of global shipping.

In his closing address, Forum convenor Hing Chao said: “We are pleased to see the successful launch of the inaugural Greater Bay Maritime Forum. With valuable input from, and fruitful exchanges between, the global and GBA experts, the Forum today served the purpose of providing much insightful input for the industry and other key stakeholders on topics of common concern and interest to not only our country but also the international community.”

The Forum is a major event in Hong Kong Maritime Week 2021 and Hong Kong Legal Week 2021, and is sponsored by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, Invest Hong Kong, Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Limited, Reed Smith Richards Butler, The American P&I Club, and Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank.

For editors:

The Hong Kong Shipowners Association, established in 1957, is one of the world’s largest shipowner associations. Its members own, manage and/or operate fleets with a combined carrying capacity of over 212 million deadweight tonnes.

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