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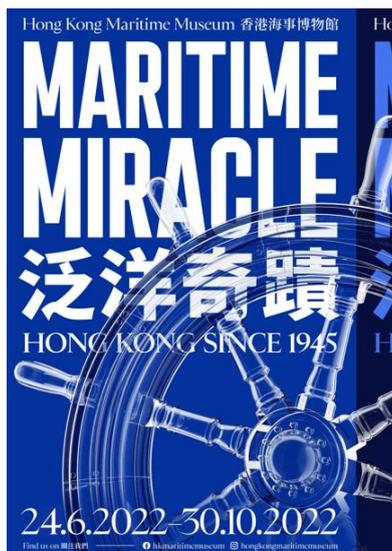


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### How shipping shaped modern Hong Kong

#### *Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: The Story of our City since 1945*

A new exhibition at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum opening on 24 June 2022, explores the contribution of shipping and the maritime sector to the meteoric growth of post-war Hong Kong.



**Hong Kong, 12 May 2022** – The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) announces the opening of *Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: The Story of our City since 1945*, running from 24 June to 30 October 2022. The Hong Kong Jockey Club is the major sponsor of the exhibition. Coinciding with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR, the special exhibition tells the remarkable story of Hong Kong's miraculous rise from the ashes of World War II and the maritime developments that made it all possible. The story is told through 25 historic exhibits combined with art tech, interactive technology, and an immersive movie experience directed by award-winning filmmaker Heiward Mak.

Quote 1: "Hong Kong is internationally famous as a vibrant city and a major financial centre but at the end of World War II, the city was little more than a wreck—the vital contribution of shipping and the maritime sector to its recovery and subsequent success, is overlooked," said Professor Joost Schokkenbroek, Museum Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Quote 2 "*Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: The Story of our City since 1945* is a prime example of how we enhance awareness of important maritime history through a blend of art and technology," said Professor Joost Schokkenbroek, Museum Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Organised and curated by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, the exhibition explores how shipping and maritime developments were key to the reconstruction and growth of the city. It was expertise in

香港海事博物館 HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM

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marine salvage that initially restored the harbour to working order and the city's pre-war maritime connections enabled it to build a regional manufacturing powerhouse dependent on shipping and maritime trade which brought employment and economic opportunities to many.



Japanese shipping in Hong Kong under attack by US Naval aircraft on 16 January 1945

Photo source: Public Records Office, Government Records Service

Memorable exhibits at the exhibition include a giant 453-kg AN-M66 bomb, most probably dropped by an American B-24 bomber on Japanese-occupied Hong Kong during World War II, and a Siebe Gorman Mine Recovery Self-Contained Diving Apparatus (MRS). This type of hard-hat standard diving suit enabled a diver to work underwater for several hours and was commonly used in the salvage industry at that time.



World War II bomb found in Hong Kong Island

On loan from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force



Diving helmet

Siebe Gorman & Co. Ltd, London

On Loan from the Macalister Collection

HKMM2012.0040.0003

The exhibition also examines how containerisation and ship specialisation later enabled a major surge in trade growth by slashing transport costs boosting the city's prosperity. It tells the story of how Hong Kong dominated global container shipping after constructing a dedicated container port at Kwai

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Chung. This transformation in shipping changed the character of the harbourfront and the city with two major former shipyards sites converted to high-rise residential districts, housing tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents.



Taikoo Dockyard

1965

Photo source: Public Records Office,  
Government Records Service

The city was also physically re-built *with* shipping—steel from salvaged ships was used as the bars in reinforced concrete— a key component in post-war high-rise construction in the city.

Hong Kong became the main transshipment port for cargoes to and from China, which fuelled its growth throughout the 1980s. Kwai Chung became the largest container port in the world for the first time in 1987, giving rise to further expansion of the port to eight terminals by the mid-1990s.

Hong Kong later outsourced much of its manufacturing to cities in the Greater Bay Area whilst retaining the lead in finance and services. This set the pattern for subsequent years when maritime trade continued to power the growth of ports in the Greater Bay Area, with Hong Kong at its heart.

The exhibition also includes an outdoor display of a historic *Dai Fei*, a high-speed smuggling vessel from the Hong Kong Marine Police. These infamous cross-border smuggling speedboats fitted with four or five giant outboard engines and capable of speeds of up to 70 knots, were endemic in local waters in the 1980s and 1990s.



Dai Fei

On loan from Marine Region of  
the Hong Kong Police

Arranged chronologically, the exhibition comprises of five phases of the city's post-war maritime history: 'Regeneration (1945-1948)', 'Back in Business (1949-1970)', 'The High Growth Years (1960s-

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1980s), 'The Container Changed Everything (1972-present)', and 'The Future'. Many exhibits illustrate the crucial role of shipping in daily lives in the past, present and future. The exhibition concludes with a forward-looking section dedicated to sustainability while celebrating Hong Kong's spirit of resilience and vitality.

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum would like to thank the generous supporters of the exhibition, notably the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the major sponsor of *Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: The Story of our City since 1945*. This exhibition is one of the many initiatives supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club's approved donation of HK\$630 million to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

## **NOTES TO EDITOR**

### **About Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) is 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 is an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, 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. The HKMM also houses various event spaces for rent, a rooftop café, and a gift shop. In 2022, the Swire Marine Discovery Centre opens at the museum, providing the community with the unique opportunity to learn about Hong Kong's maritime heritage and marine ecology through a pioneering fusion of history, art, and science.

### **Exhibition Date**

24 June – 30 October 2022

### **Ticketing information**

Adults: HK\$30

Seniors (aged 60 or above), full-time students (with valid ID), children (under 18) and people with disabilities (accompanied by a carer): HK\$15

\*Discounts are available for group visits of 10 or more.

For the latest update on ticketing, opening hours and social distancing information, please visit [www.hkmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org)

### **Venue**

Special Exhibitions and Events Gallery, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier 8

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## Press Information

Press images are available for download at <https://bit.ly/MaritimeMiraclePress>

For more information, please kindly visit <https://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/maritimemiracle>

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and Instagram (@hongkongmaritimemuseum) for latest updates on the exhibition and mini-movies.

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