PRESS RELEASE

Special exhibition *East Meets West: Maritime Silk Routes in the 13th – 18th Centuries* showcasing new archaeological discoveries under waters

Hong Kong, 6 August 2018 — Co-organised by Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) and Guangdong Museum, *East Meets West: Maritime Silk Routes in the 13th – 18th Centuries* will be held at Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier No. 8, from **14 August to 11 November 2018**. The exhibition will showcase over 200 artefacts drawn from the Mainland and Hong Kong, including Guangdong Museum, Hubei Provincial Museum, Quanzhou Maritime Museum, Guangdong Provincial Institute of Culture Relics and Archaeology, Museum of the Western Han Dynasty Mausoleum of the Nanyue King, Luoding Museum, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, the Antiquities and Monuments Office, University Museum and Art Gallery at the University of Hong Kong and other local collections. The exhibits comprise of ceramics, gold and silver, semi-precious stones, trade paintings, silk, stone carvings, historical maps and publications, metal ware, bamboo and wooden carvings, ship models and navigation maps. This is a special exhibition designed to promote community understanding of the development of maritime silk routes along the Southern coast of China, from the Southern Song to the Early Qing dynasties from the perspectives of community trade, religions, cultural exchange, historical and maritime archaeology.

Back in mid-July 2016, Dr. Bill Jeffery, Assistant Professor of University of Guam and Research Associate of Hong Kong Maritime Museum, led a team of local divers from the Hong Kong Underwater Heritage Group to recover a 1,000-year-old stone anchor stock off High Island under the license from Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The archaeological findings enunciate the historical role played by Hong Kong in the Maritime Silk Road as a safe harbour, place of replenishment and point of departure. The exhibition will also display a range of items loaned by AMO and excavated from Sacred Hill North in Kowloon.

Based on the travelling exhibition presented by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage at Internationales Maritimes Museum (Germany) and Museum Palazzo Venezia (Italy) in 2017, the re-curated exhibition will cover new stories from Hong Kong waters.

Museum Director Mr. Richard Wesley says, “The exhibition will include some previously unseen items that highlight how complex, diverse and rich China’s trading relationships were during the 500-year period featured in the display. We would also like to thank The Swire Group Charitable Trust for their generous funding support.”

新聞稿

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(Hong Kong Maritime Museum is incorporated with limited liability)
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Exhibition curator and Assistant Director (Curatorial and Collections) Dr. Libby Chan explains, "Understanding the role of Hong Kong in the maritime silk routes will be the key of the exhibition for Hong Kong people, as well as for mainland and overseas visitors. Through collaborating with Guangdong Museum again with the support of other China and local cultural institutes, this exhibition will demonstrate the development of East-West encounters in the Maritime Silk Routes, the role of Hong Kong in this maritime story, and will open room for discussion among visitors to current understandings of the maritime silk routes within the context of globalisation."

The project is supported by Department of Culture of Guangdong Province, Home Affairs Bureau and sponsored by The Swire Group Charitable Trust.

Five Must-See Exhibits

*A fusion of Chinese aesthetics, craftsmanship, and western decoration in blue-and-white porcelain*

*An ewer with underglaze-blue decorations of tulips, clowns, Chinese landscape and European foliate scrolls*

Ming dynasty, c. 1640
Gift of Mr. Anthony J. Hardy
Hong Kong Maritime Museum

*This high-quality celadon dish was decorated with a molded double-fish and lotus petal patterns. The fish pattern represents wealth and prosperity, and the lotus pattern is commonly used as religious symbol*

*Celadon dish with molded double fish pattern and lotus petals decoration, everted rim*

Longquan Kiln, Zhejiang Province
Sacred Hill North, Hong Kong, Song-Yuan dynasties (960-1368)
On loan from Antiquities and Monuments Office, LCSD

*Decoration found in the tomb of the Prince Liangzhuang in Ming dynasty, showing jeweler techniques and semi-gemstones imported from Southeast Asia*

*Gold hat top decorated with sapphire and gemstones*

Excavated from the tomb of the Prince Liangzhuang, Hubei Province in 2001
Ming dynasty (1368-1644)
On loan from Hubei Provincial Museum

*The about-1,000-year-old anchor stock available for public display after two years of conservation by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum*

*Stone anchor stock*

High Island, Sai Kung in 2016, Song dynasty (960-1279)
On loan from Antiquities and Monuments Office, LCSD

*Delicate gold ware from the Nanhai No. 1 Shipwreck*

*Gold necklace*

Salvaged from Nanhai No. 1 shipwreck in 2014, Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279)
On loan from Guangdong Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics & Archaeology

To download more images, please click [here](#)
In support of the exhibition, the Museum has developed a series of academic lectures, gallery chat and family workshops exploring a variety of facets related to the exhibition.

**Gallery Chat: Chinese Junk and the Maritime Silk Road**
Date: 5 August & 26 August 2018 (Sun)
Time: 14:30 – 16:30
Language: Cantonese

*No booking is required. Join with a valid museum entrance ticket.*

**Fun Afternoon for East Meets West Exhibition**
Date: 19 August & 16 September 2018 (Sun)
Time: 14:30 – 17:30
Language: Cantonese

*No booking is required. Join with a valid museum entrance ticket.*

**East Meets West Exhibition Public Talk Series: Archaeological Discoveries in Hong Kong**
Date: 8 September 2018 (Sat)
Time: 14:00 – 15:00; 15:45 – 16:45
Speaker:
Mr. Raymond Ng, Experienced Archaeologist / Ceramic Expert;
Mr. Rick Chan, Hong Kong Underwater Heritage Group member, and
Mr. Paul Harrison, Conservator of Hong Kong Maritime Museum
Language: Cantonese; English

*No booking is required. Join with a valid museum entrance ticket.*

**East Meets West Exhibition Academic Lecture Series: Maritime Silk Routes**
Date: 15 September 2018 (Sat)
Time: 14:00 – 15:00; 15:45 – 16:45
Speaker:
Dr. Lee Qingxin, Head of the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences;
Dr. Wang Guanyu, Research-Assistant Curator (Antiquities), Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Language: Putonghua

*No booking is required. Join with a valid museum entrance ticket.*

For further details, please refer to the Museum’s website:
http://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/eng/whats-on/calendar-of-events/79/
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Visitors’ Information

Exhibition Period: 14 August – 11 November 2018
Opening hours: Monday-Friday 09:30-17:30
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 10:00-19:00
No tickets will be available 30 minutes before closing
Venue: Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier No. 8, Hong Kong (next to the Observation Wheel)
Enquiries: (852) 3713 2500
Website: www.hkmaritimemuseum.org
Instagram: @hongkongmaritimemuseum
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HKMaritimeMuseum/
Ticketing: Available at reception.
            $30 for adult
            $15 for seniors/ students (aged above 18) and disabled (accompanied by a carer) / children (aged under 18)
            Discounts are available for group visits of 10 or more.
Special Summer Offer: By purchasing tickets from Hong Kong Maritime Museum or Hong Kong Observation Wheel, you will be eligible for the ‘2 FOR 1’ offer from the other attraction. Valid until 31 August 2018

About Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) was founded by members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association committed to helping the community of and visitors to Hong Kong explore the city’s unique maritime heritage. HKMM has been named as TripAdvisor’s Travellers’ Choice Top 10 Museums in China in 2017, and is an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, private individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government. HKMM is a cultural institution that tells the story of trade and maritime history in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and the vital roles ships and the sea play in our past, present and future.

Today HKMM displays nearly 1,000 objects in 15 galleries, attracting more than 130,000 visitors annually. HKMM also houses various event spaces, a resource centre, roof-top social enterprise café, and gift shop. A variety of ongoing educational activities are available for schools, community groups and families. For more information, please visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

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