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VICE CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AGM

- 1. I thank everyone for his or her contribution to the work of the HKMLA over the last year. I would especially like to thank Mr Justice Anthony Chan for his on-going interest in and support for the Association.
- 2. I thank Donald Sham, who took over from Edward Alder as our Secretary last year, for the time and effort that he has put into HKMLA's business, and his secretary Kaman Wong for her great assistance during the year. They have efficiently completed all the work on formalities with HSBC and the Police for the Societies Ordinance requirements and ensured that the Association ran smoothly during the handover. I also thank Edward Alder and his secretary Meeta for their excellent work in guiding Donald and Kaman through the process.
- 3. Last year was a challenging year for everyone. Due to Covid-19 and the gathering restrictions imposed from time to time, it was difficult to organise any luncheon as we regularly did in previous years. Most other events have had to be conducted virtually, including this year's AGM.
- 4. The Association managed to co-organise two in-person events prior to the Covid outbreak:-
 - (1) On 22 November 2019, the Association co-organised the 2019 Maritime Week Mock Arbitration at the DoJ conference facility with several of our fellow legal or arbitration bodies, CMAC, CIArb, and HKMAG. Our Secretary Donald Sham participated in one of the sessions as counsel.
 - (2) On 2 December 2019, the Association co-organised with the LMAA and HKIAC on the seminar "Maritime Arbitration – moving forward into 2020" looking at different aspects of maritime arbitration, including the Chinese experience in London, some unexpected consequences of arbitration clauses and guidance on preliminary issues and strike out applications as well as an explanation of the new arrangement between mainland China and HKSAR on interim measures to support arbitration and its implications. Our Secretary Donald Sham was one of the panel speakers.
- 5. Despite the uncertainties then brought about by the Covid outbreak, we managed to participate as supporting organisation for a webinar "COVID 19 & Oil Price Collapse: A

Double Whammy" on 26 May 2020. The webinar was organised by the Maritime Law Association of Singapore and supported by several maritime law associations including us. Lianjun Li participated in the panel discussions on behalf of the HKMLA.

- 6. On the CMI front, we have continued our role as the Hong Kong conduit for circulating information about CMI events and projects to the Hong Kong maritime law community via our mailing list.
- 7. We also continue to operate a joint membership scheme for steeply discounted online access to Lloyd's Reports and Informa text books. All members are welcome to join this.
- 8. We hope to bring to all members more events in future as we adapt to the 'new normal'. The next event in line is the 2020 Mock Arbitration scheduled for 20 November 2020, which we again co-organise with CMAC, CIArb, and HKMAG. We will also be supporting the ALB Hong Kong Law Awards 2020 scheduled for 27 November 2020.

Jon Zinke

22 October 2020