

HONG KONG MID-STREAM OPERATORS ASSOCIATION
香港中流作業商會

Press Release

Several major midstream operators in Hong Kong are in the process of forming the Hong Kong Midstream Operators Association, with the aims to promote the well-being of its member companies and the development of midstream operations in Hong Kong.

In the past years, the business environment for midstream operations has been extremely difficult. On one hand, midstream operators have made huge investments in computerization, refurbishment of facilities, employment of additional work force, extension of service hours and increased staff training to increase service standards. These have resulted in an acceleration of operational flow, improvement of yard safety, reduction of tractor waiting time, which have benefited the transportation industry and customers alike.

On the other hand, midstream operators are also under continuous pressure to reduce their tariffs. The downward pressure on tariffs has been caused by intense competition amongst operators and the emerging tackle business increasingly used by shipping lines. Under such circumstances, operators would have to cooperate in order to safeguard the existence of midstream operations in Hong Kong.

The midstream business in Hong Kong has contributed a lot to the Port and the society, handling one-fourth of the total throughput in the Port annually, and providing for over a hundred thousand direct and indirect employment opportunities. It provides an alternative for shipping lines to handle their business other than at terminal, thereby helping to create a balanced market mechanism, which in turn enhances Hong Kong's position as the hub port in the Far East.

Through the new Association, member operators hope to actively promote the development of the midstream operations and facilitate the growth of Hong Kong's economy.

Editors Note:

The founding members of the Association are China Merchants Container Services Ltd., Faith & Safe Transportation Limited, Fat Kee Stevedores Limited, Floata Consolidation Ltd., Happy Venture Transportation Limited, Hoi Kong Container Services Co. Ltd., Ocean Crown Transportation Ltd., Sakoma (HK) Ltd., Yuen Fat Wharf & Godown Co. Ltd. (list in alphabetical order)

January 18, 1999