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**Transport and
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Mr. Anthony CHU
Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

19 January 2016

Dear Mr. CHU,

**Review of the effectiveness of the work of
the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council**

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2015 relaying the views of the Hong Kong & Kowloon Trades Union Council (“TUC”) on the work of the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council (“MIC”).

The Government attaches great importance to the development of the maritime industry, and we are committed to reinforce and enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international maritime centre. In his 2016 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government would merge the existing MIC and the Port Development Council to form a new Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (“the Board”). The Board, to be chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, will focus its work on manpower development, marketing and promotion, as well as industry development with a view to drive the development of our high value-added maritime services sector. The Board will assist the Government in formulating strategies and policies to enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international transportation centre, in particular, to grow the maritime services cluster. The Government is actively making preparations for the establishment of

the Board and manpower and resources will be deployed to support its work.

We would like to thank the TUC for their views on manpower development of the maritime industry. The Government is also of the view that talents and manpower are crucial to the sustainable development of the maritime industry. In this connection, a Manpower Committee will be established under the Board to examine the manpower situation in the maritime and port sectors, and explore measures to attract more young people to join the industry. The Committee will also formulate and implement manpower development and training initiatives, including taking forward the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund, which was established by the Government in April 2014 with a commitment of \$100 million.

We will continue to exchange views with different stakeholders to help promote the manpower development of the maritime industry. For enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 3509 7247.

Yours sincerely,

(Mary TSANG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing