

Maritime Awareness Week: Seminar on Legal Career Prospects in the Maritime Industry

28 October 2010

-Amy Lau, Ellen Leung



Discussion among speakers

The School of Law (SLW) of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) held a seminar on “Legal Career Prospects in the Maritime Industry” on 28 October 2010. The seminar is one of the activities aiming to raise public awareness of Hong Kong’s maritime industry organized during the Maritime Awareness Week from 25 to 31 October 2010.

The seminar was well attended by students from various programmes in the School of Law. Mr Joseph Poon, Group Managing Director of Tai Chong Cheang Group, was the moderator of the seminar. Speakers came from various sections of the maritime industry and included Mr Raghu Raghunath, Senior Executive Vice President of the Noble Group’s Noble Chartering Limited, Ms Rosita Lau, Partner in the Ince and Co International Law Firm, Ms Maggie Cheung, Senior Associate from Mayer Brown JSM, Ms Anita Tsang, Director Transport Services and Infrastructure, Global Banking of HSBC and Mr Kenneth Koo, Group Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Tai Chong Cheang Group.

Introducing the contents of the seminar, Mr Joseph Poon noted that maritime industry was a key component for Hong Kong and provided many jobs for people in Hong Kong.

Mr Raghu Raghunath focused on the business of Noble Group, one of the biggest mineral traders and providers of mineral trading logistics in the world. He addressed that much of the operation was headquartered in Hong Kong with China as one of their biggest customers and markets. Mr Raghunath also talked about the activities centered around the contracting cargo affreightments, trading freight futures, the logistics of chartering vessels to perform cargo contracts and mineral trading etc.



Mr Joseph Poon

Ms Rosita Lau introduced Hong Kong’s maritime law, its relationship with international maritime conventions and international sea pollution conventions and the Admiralty Court of Hong Kong. She emphasized that shipping was closely related to our daily lives and addressed that Hong Kong was an international shipping

centre. She noted that there was only a handful of experienced solicitors and barristers who practiced maritime law. In her view, a successful maritime lawyer had to be very good at domestic law and international law, with international vision, perseverance and dedication, and be very quick in spotting issues and in advising clients.

Ms Maggie Cheung covered the materials along the lines of Ms Rosita Lau. She shared her working experiences in JSM and provided an insight into career opportunities in maritime law for women. She found that working in the shipping industry was challenging as well as exciting. Ms Cheung also introduced the Womens International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA), which was an international organization for women in management positions involved in maritime transportation business and related trades worldwide.

Ms Anita Tsang's responsibilities in the HSBC ranged from aviation to ships. Acting as a bridge between her clients and the bank, she worked closely with lawyers and clients by keeping and building a good relationship with them. She also provided insight into the dynamic world of transportation finance. Ms Tsang echoed Ms Cheung's view that work was challenging and exciting.

Mr Kenneth Koo emphasized that Hong Kong had developed to one of the top infrastructure foundation in the maritime industry leading to a high-end service centre. He felt that in the past shipping was a stable industry. Today, however, the shipping market was volatile and sophisticated. A new generation who understood the dynamics of the industry had to be nurtured. He encouraged young people to join the industry and make the industry progress to the next level.



Mr Kenneth Koo