

To: Shipping/Logistics News Editors

## Emphasis on Unity as HAFFA Concludes 2024 AGM



The Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics (HAFFA) concluded its 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), with Chairman Mr. Gary Lau highlighting the influential industry body's most notable successes over the last year, achieved with the support of its members, Committee members, industry partners and the Government.

It has been a busy twelve months for HAFFA as the industry continues to work towards its goal of returning to pre-pandemic levels within an environment of economic and geopolitical challenges, and in his report for the year 2023-2024, Mr. Lau again voiced the Association's support for recent Government measures such as its action plans for modern logistics development and maritime and port development strategy.

One of the most recent administration initiatives was the 'Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers', where HAFFA's successful efforts to campaign on behalf of its members saw adjustments to the optimization of the scheme announced in the 2024-25 budget.

Commented Mr. Lau: "In line with HAFFA's recommendations, the Government has increased the maximum funding amount from one to two million dollars per enterprise, which will help further support and promote development and competitiveness within the industry.'

A major milestone, and a crucial victory for both HAFFA and the industry, was the successful passing of the Import and Export (Amendment) Bill 2023, which resulted in the resumption of intermodal transshipment of e-cigarette products through Hong Kong following the implementation of the 'Alternative Smoking Product Transshipment Control Scheme (ATCS)'.

An issue critical to the survival of the industry, HAFFA began its vigorous campaign in late 2021, engaging with numerous Government officials to both highlight the importance of the market, and suggest and support comprehensive solutions to concerns surrounding it. Utilizing its unrivalled industry knowledge, HAFFA proactively engaged with the authorities to successfully restore this major industry economic contributor.



Other key local issues impacting Hong Kong's international logistics industry and on which HAFFA has been active include advocacy for the extension of the Government's regulated cargo fuel surcharge in order to prevent market chaos and increased costs significantly undermining the city's competitiveness.

A seminar co-organized by HAFFA in January 2024 on strengthening the safe carriage of lithium battery shipments attracted almost 200 participants, while the Association's first-ever dedicated Pavilion at the Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference (ALMAC) showcased 21 members and was hailed as a major success.

Further afield, and continuing to strengthen cooperation with major Mainland cities, in June 2023, HAFFA Chairman Mr. Lau led a delegation of 70 members to visit the Hong Kong International Airport Logistics Park (HKIALP) in Dongguan. HAFFA met with Beijing top representatives of the China International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFA) at the 19<sup>th</sup> Sino International Freight Forwarders Conference at Asia World Expo in September, and delivered a keynote speech at the ALMAC Satellite Conference in Shanghai in July.

Furthermore, HAFFA continues to play an integral role in initiatives to maximize the utilization of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB), and in enhancing logistics collaboration between the neighbouring Greater Bay Area powerhouses.

Since 2011, the term of each HAFFA Executive Committee has been two years in order to facilitate continuity of the Association's vision and policy implementation. As 2024 is not an election year, the AGM was conducted solely by the Executive Committee members. However, majority of the ordinary members have appointed a proxy to vote on the resolutions on their behalf.

The next HAFFA election will be held in 2025 for the 2025/2027 term.

Established in 1966, and now with over 310 corporate members, HAFFA is responsible for setting industry standards as well as providing educational courses which enhance the professional standards of freight forwarders and logistics services providers.

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