

ATTN: SHIPPING & LOGISTICS EDITORS

Gary Lau Elected 2021-2023 HAFFA Chairman at Virtual AGM



HAFFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
香港貨運物流業協會會員周年大會 2021

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The Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited (HAFFA) has elected Mr. Gary Lau of Jet-Speed Air Cargo Forwarders (HK) Limited as Chairman for the two-year 2021/2023 term at its 2021 Annual General Meeting. The AGM took place on April 27, 2021, was held virtually, both in the interests of safety and to fully comply with prevailing COVID-19 regulations. Ordinary HAFFA members were able to vote on resolutions by proxy via the Executive Committee, which held the virtual AGM via Zoom. Moreover, members were able to elect the new HAFFA Executive Committee for the 2021-2023 term online on April 22, 2021, between 9am and 3pm.

It has been an extraordinarily busy year for HAFFA during what has been an unprecedented time for the world and for Hong Kong, and the considerable influence the Association wields has been deployed on multiple fronts in the interests of its members and for the welfare of the industry in Hong Kong.

When COVID-19 vaccines became available at the end of 2020, HAFFA immediately called on the Civil Aviation Authority (CAD) to prioritize the facilitation of charter applications for the transportation of vaccines. HAFFA stressed the unique challenges, time pressures and potential scope of COVID-19 vaccine deliveries, and CAD pledged its full support to the industry in this regard.

When Members reported a significant capacity reduction and freight rate rise following further tightening of isolation measures for air crew, HAFFA successfully appealed to the HKSAR Government via the Transport and Housing Bureau for mitigating measures to solve carriers' manpower allocation issues.

HAFFA recommended alternative anti-pandemic measures to alleviate the situation, while at the same time continuing to safeguard public health. As a result, the Government agreed to exempt fully-vaccinated local freight crew from the mandatory quarantine requirement, with the exception of those arriving from Group A specified countries.

A major breakthrough made on behalf of Members under the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) 2021 New Policy Direction related to the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for the Logistics Industry. As a result of HAFFA's continued efforts, the Government implemented the Scheme in Q4 of 2020, enabling eligible entities to receive 1:1 subsidies, subject to a ceiling of HK\$1 million, on new X-ray machines and Explosive Trace Detectors required to comply with ICAO screening. Many HAFFA members have since benefitted from the scheme which has gone some way to easing the burden of ICAO screening requirements amid a challenging business environment.

At an international level, HAFFA remains the only recognized body representing Members' interests at meetings of major global and regional industry organizations, including IATA, FIATA, IFGB and the Federation of Asia-Pacific Air Cargo Associations (FAPAA).

Commented Mr. Lau: "Looking ahead, in the near-term I hope to see a resumption of local business operations, including a reopening of the border allowing a gradual recommencement of regular cross-border business. Cross-boundary e-commerce, high-value cargo and fast-growing temperature-controlled cargo all represent major opportunities as the industry enters a new supply chain pattern. Meanwhile, I call for unity among our Members and a continuation of ongoing insights sharing in order to protect local businesses and jobs."

The principal officers of the 2021/2023 HAFFA Executive Committee are:

Chairman – Mr. Gary Lau (Jet-Speed Air Cargo Forwarders (HK) Limited);
Vice Chairman – Mr. Ronnie Leung (AE Cargo Services Limited);
Vice Chairman – Mr. Chandler So (Combined Logistics (Hong Kong) Limited);
Vice Chairlady – Ir. Elsa Yuen (Korchina Logistics (H.K.) Limited);
Honorary Secretary – Ms. Janet Ng (Trimanson Express Limited);
Honorary Treasurer – Mr. Patrick Yip (RCS Logistics Limited);

In addition to the principal officers, members of the Committee are (in alphabetical order of company name):

Mr. Sydney Chan (ACE Protrans Forwarding Limited);
Mr. Jimmy Siu (Chevalier AOC Freight Express Holdings Limited);
Mr. Stephen Law (China Freight (Hong Kong) Limited);
Mr. Eddie Law (Dimerco Air Forwarders (HK) Limited);
Ms. Vikie Tsang (Easyway Air Freight Limited);
Mr. Rex Lai (Forward By Norman Limited);
Mr. Kenny Lee (Infinity Cargo Express Limited);
Mr. Bruce Yau (NAF Northern Ocean Freight Limited);
Mr. Joey Cheung (U-Freight Limited);
Ms. Flora Liu (Wisdom Freight (Hong Kong) Limited) and
Mr. Spencer Chau (Worldtrans Air-Sea Service Limited).

Established in 1966, now with over 320 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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Issued on behalf of the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited by PR Plus Limited. For further information, please email nikki@prplus.com.hk.