

Maritime Heroine Series

(Seagoing Seafaring)

" Determination"

" Chan Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Marine Officer, Marine Department"

Voice-over: Nowadays in Hong Kong,
there are not many seafarers in the ocean-going sector,
not to even mention female seafarers.

Chan Ka-man, Carmen was a seafarer
with seetime of almost ten years.
She is also the first female in Hong Kong
to qualify as a Master of ocean-going ship.

Carmen describes herself as energetic.
Excited about adventures, she chose seafaring as her career
after graduated from the Maritime Services Training Institute.

" Chan Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Marine Officer, Marine Department"

Carmen: When I went on ship the first time,
I realised that the actual scenario
was totally different from what it was described in textbooks.
The ocean is so vast.
I even took out my camera and kept taking pictures of
everything.

Voice-over: Carmen enjoys getting to see the world.
Exploring Papua New Guinea, a mysterious place at the
Pacific Ocean,
impressed her the most.

Carmen: I found a local seafarer to be my guide at that time.
He took me to experience the local cultures.
He even told me there are still cannibal tribes in Papua New Guinea.

Voice-over: Taking qualification examinations and seafaring ocean-going sector,
Carmen finally qualified as a Master of ocean-going vessels in end 2012.

To be promoted to a ship master
one should complete designated training programmes,
possess sea service experiences
and pass all the qualification examinations.

Having had been working on the ocean-going ships for years,
Carmen believes being a woman does not compromise her performance.

Rather, her gender is beneficial to her job.

Carmen: Sometimes one needs to lift heavy stuffs while working in the deck department.

Females may not be as physically fit as males,
but it is not a problem.

You can lift the stuffs in two rounds.

When I was the chief mate,
I realised it was better as a woman to communicate with the subordinates.

Women are more willing to listen.

Coworkers will then feel being respected.

Voice-over: Her career path may seem to be a smooth one,
but Carmen said
she was once at a low point and had thought of quitting.
Carmen: After a few years of seafaring,
the excitement and the freshness feeling I had had been
cooled down.
I started feeling lost and could not find the direction.

Voice-over: There was a period
that she had not gone for seafaring in the ocean-going
sector.
Instead, she worked on high-speed passenger ferries.

Carmen: At that time, a senior kept encouraging me.
"You are so close to be a ship master,
why don't you persist?"

Voice-over: She recalled all the freedom and adventures she had on the
ocean-going ships,
and realised she missed those days a lot.
So she decided to return to work on ships.

Carmen: Everyone, no matter man or woman, can get stuck in a
bottleneck.
A lot of people would give up at that moment.
I am not particularly competent,
I am persistent though
to overcome.

Voice-over: After almost ten years of seafaring,
Carmen has gone through a lot,
and gained a lot.

At this stage, she no longer pursues excitement and freedom.

That is why she got a shore-based job few years back, as a Marine Officer in the Marine Department.

Her current duties now include planning the port development

and leading harbour patrols, etc.

Her previous ocean-going experience helps her a lot.

Next, Carmen aims at becoming the first female Director of Marine with sea experience, continue to contribute in the maritime industry.

" Uphold steadfastly Be persevering and be bold"

" Special Thanks Marine Department, Maritime Services Training Institute"

(Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board)