

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> CILTHK Student Essay Competition

**Category:** English Junior Group

**Reference:** EJ

**Teammate:** Group of 2 / Individual

**Topic:** "Maritime industry plays an important role in supporting our daily lives; however, during the pandemic in 2019, people seemed to have limited knowledge about the industry."  
What measures would you recommend to uplift people's awareness of the maritime industry?"

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Do you still remember the time when we had to go out early in the morning just to snatch all the necessities in shops? Or the time when the supermarkets were all out of vegetables and food? These all happened during the pandemic.

Without these ships transporting goods across the world, supply chains would have completely collapsed. Essential medical supplies like masks and vaccines wouldn't have reached hospitals in time, leaving the sick at risk. Supermarkets would have run out of food, electronics, and other necessities, leaving people to panic. Businesses would've shut down, leading to serious unemployment problems and a global economic meltdown. However, the maritime industry kept things running when everything else seemed to fall apart, without it, the pandemic would've been so much worse with more chaos happening.

The maritime industry isn't just important; it's been shaping history for centuries. From ancient trade routes to modern global shipping networks, Hong Kong has played a huge role in this story. The harbors and location made it one of the most important ports in the world. During World War II and later during the Korean War, Hong Kong became an important port for moving goods and resources for the people in need. Even today, it's still one of the busiest ports on Earth.

But here's a funny thing: even though the maritime industry is a huge part in Hong Kong's economy and affects everything we do every day: what we eat, what we wear, what we do. Still no one really notices it. It's about time that people need to be more aware of how important this industry is. It's not just about giant ships that deliver our goods and online shopping stuff; it's about how our world works behind the scenes. Firstly, we can start off with educational campaigns. Schools can teach kids about how shipping works and why it matters. Port tours can also help. What if you could visit Hong Kong's ports and see those massive cranes lifting containers? It'd be so cool to see how everything works up close.

However, these are just something to slightly help with the awareness of this important industry. What if there were marine edition viral games like a Hong Kong Maritime Industry version of Monopoly? Instead of buying properties like "Park Lane," you could buy shipping lanes or container terminals. "Chance" and "Community Chest" cards could introduce real-world scenarios, such as rising fuel costs or ships oil leak in the middle of the ocean while delivery. You'd play as shipping companies trying to manage trade routes while dealing with challenges like rising fuel costs, which is what happened during Covid in 2019. Monopoly is a popular family game and people enjoy playing it even though it takes forever to end. It'd be fun and affordable, but also teach people about how complicated and important this industry is.

Recently, Squid Game 2 released and has been viral ever since. Squid Game is really popular and more people would join it just for fun. But while they're having fun, they can also learn the importance of this whole maritime industry. Imagine there was a marine edition, and there were challenges like container stacking. Players have to stack containers as fast as they can without toppling them over with real crane operators. Or there could also be a storm navigation. You'd have to steer a ship through crazy weather in a simulator, showing how tough life is for seafarers to deliver goods to us. There could also be a trade route puzzle where teams can solve puzzles to figure out how to move goods efficiently while avoiding delays. Although these games can be high maintenance, it can attract more people and uplift people's awareness. After all, the final goal is to let people leave with a new appreciation for what goes into making global trade possible.

It's time we understand that the maritime industry isn't just about ships or ports. It's about people, systems, and processes that make our daily lives possible. The pandemic showed us how fragile our world is when supply chains break down, but it also showed us how crucial this industry is in keeping things together. Without it, the life we know with necessities wouldn't exist. Covid-19 was the best example for us to show that the maritime industry is irreplaceable. While we were snatching food from supermarkets, the industry was working behind the scenes. Paying for the necessities were just like paying to the whole industry. Can you still imagine our world without maritime industry? I believe not.