

## HONG KONG PROTESTS DISRUPT AREA 3 GENERAL MEETING



Protesters scuffle with the police and demonstrators set up barricades at Hong Kong Airport on Aug 24 disrupt flights.

The protests in Hong Kong have been going on since June, by mostly young student activists clamoring expanded demands triggered by an extradition bill. The street demonstrations have often turned violent and clashes with the police are a common sight, causing disruption in the normal daily life of the city for locals and tourists alike. A couple of weekends resulted in closure of the airport and the cancellation of flights as the demonstrators blocked the roads, railways and mass transport leading to and from the airport. This has prompted IRC David Hansen to reschedule the A3GM from September because of safety concerns on the welfare of the members and participants. The Area Three General Meeting has therefore been rescheduled to November 8-10, 2019.

However many Mariners who had made travel arrangements early for the original schedule on 6/8<sup>th</sup> September could no longer change their bookings. Defying odds and safety, ten brave Aussies (of the original 14 who signed up for the meeting), led by RC Grahame Werrell, decided to “Damn the torpedoes”, and, unless their flights are cancelled or the airline refuses boarding, will fly to Hong Kong “come hell or high water”.



Protest common sight on the streets of Hong Kong, the Advisory on the right.

**Consulate General of the Philippines  
Hong Kong**

**ADVISORY**

In view of the serious disruptions in the modes of transport in Hong Kong brought about by activities related to demonstrations, all Filipinos are strongly advised to delay non-essential travel to Hong Kong.

All Filipinos who are now in Hong Kong are further advised to exercise caution, keep away from demonstration areas, stay alert, and avoid wearing black or white upper clothes.

Passengers must check with airlines and allow a significant lead time, especially on days when there are scheduled protests within or near the airport.

In case of emergency, the Consulate may be reached at (+852) 9155 4023 while the Hong Kong Police may be reached through 999.

For the public's information and guidance.

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Similarly, a handful of Mariners from the Philippines, whilst taking note of the travel Advisory by the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, will accordingly make a last-minute decision on whether they will take their flights.. Regardless I feel compelled to go, minus the First Mate, to continue to assist and lend moral support to FC William Chun and his Fleet who have been painstakingly making preparations for this event for months: also for RC Grahame and the Aussies who may be disappointed by any last minute cancellation of the Philippine Fleet. In any case, everyone is looking on the bright side, aiming to have a good time of caucus and fellowship, and to plan for what lies ahead. It was agreed to continue the Meet and Greet at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht club, and to discuss and work out alternatives for the cruise, dinners and other pre-arranged functions that will no longer go ahead.

New Zealand and Japan are probably wiser and foresaw all this ahead of time and will not go. Until then in November, perhaps the good old times will be back in Hong Kong and we will have a more “Fun, fun, fun”, and an enjoyable A3GM.