

# The Chinese Seafarers

*China Centre (Maritime)*

*中国（海事）中心*

*School of Maritime Science & Engineering*



**VS**





**VS**





**VS**



# Heralded Explorers

## A comparison of Columbus and Zheng He



**VS**



Photo Courtesy of  
Zheng He Institute



Southampton  
**SOLENT**  
University

# Columbus vs. Zheng He

[solent.ac.uk](http://solent.ac.uk)

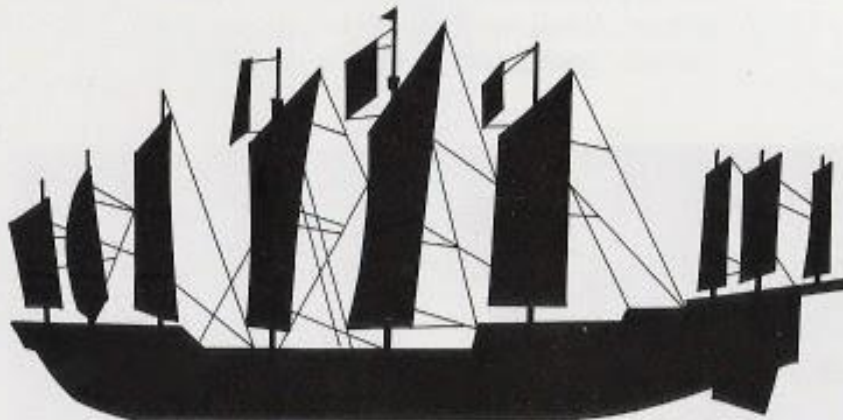




# Columbus vs. Zheng He



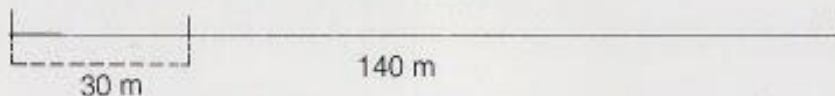
Based on these models, do you think Zheng He's ship is about 2½ times as long as Columbus's ship? Recent research suggests that Zheng He's ship was about 220 feet long. Columbus's ship was about 85 feet long.



Zheng He's admiraalschip (1431)



Columbus' Santa Maria (1492)



The ship in front is one of the three ships Columbus sailed from Spain to the Americas (1492).

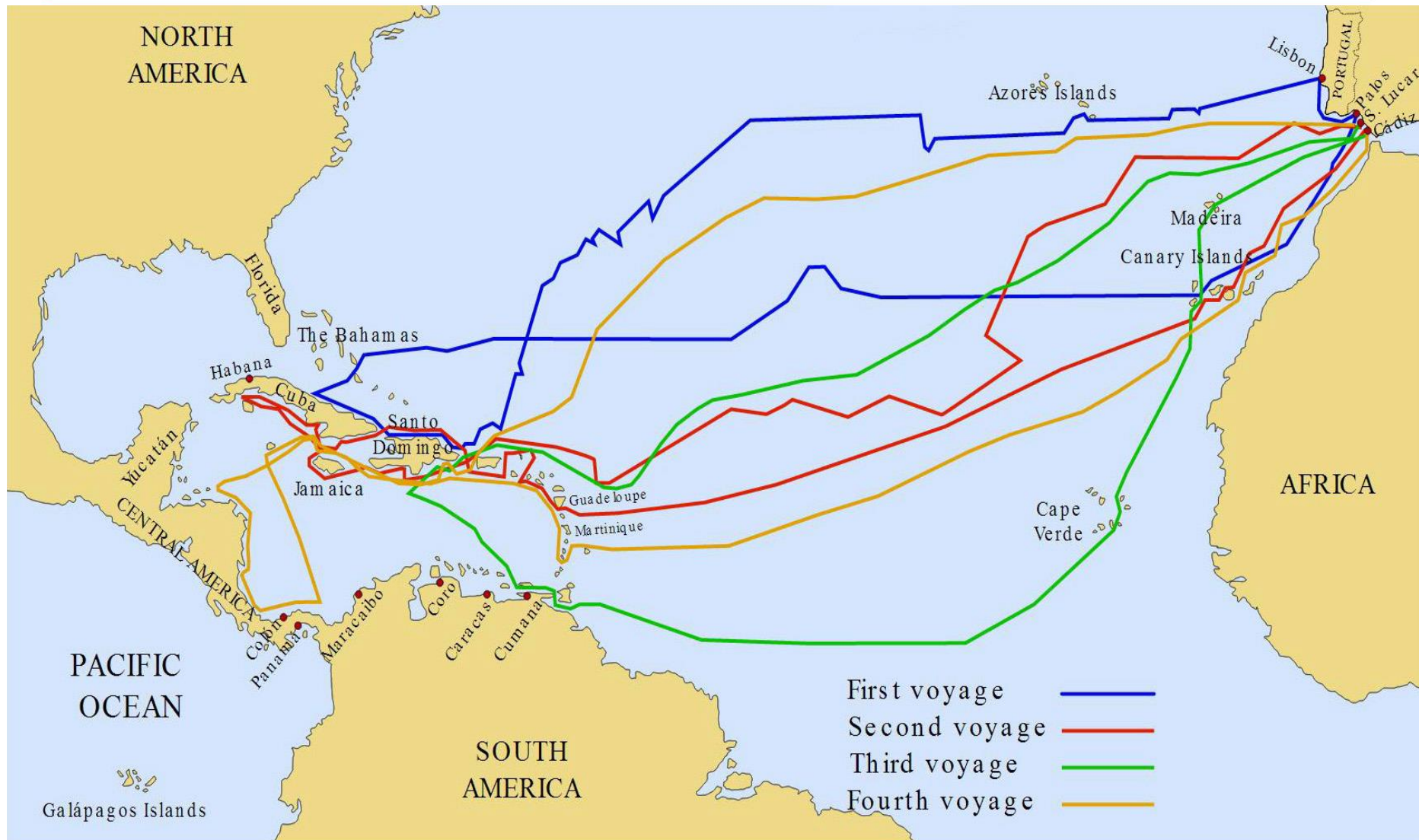
The large ship in the back is Zheng He's flagship (1405-1433).







# Columbus' Sea Routes



# Heralded Explorers

## A comparison of Columbus and Zheng He



**VS**

Legacy left



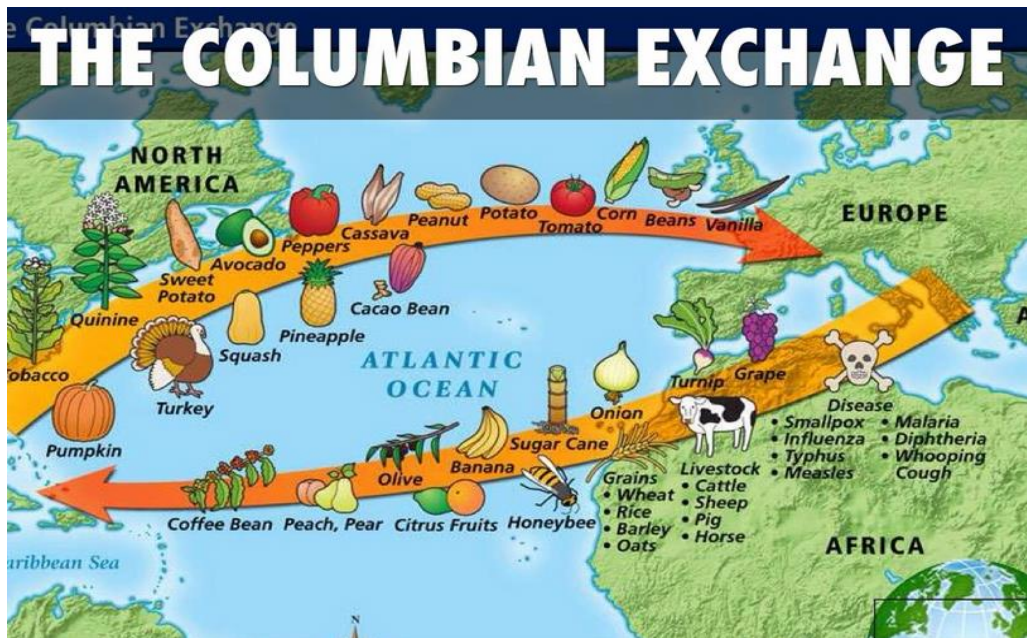
Photo Courtesy of  
Zheng He Institute

## Columbian Exchange (Grand Exchange)

- 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries
- tools, online shopping,
- Driving force- trade and colonization
- (including African/American slave trade)



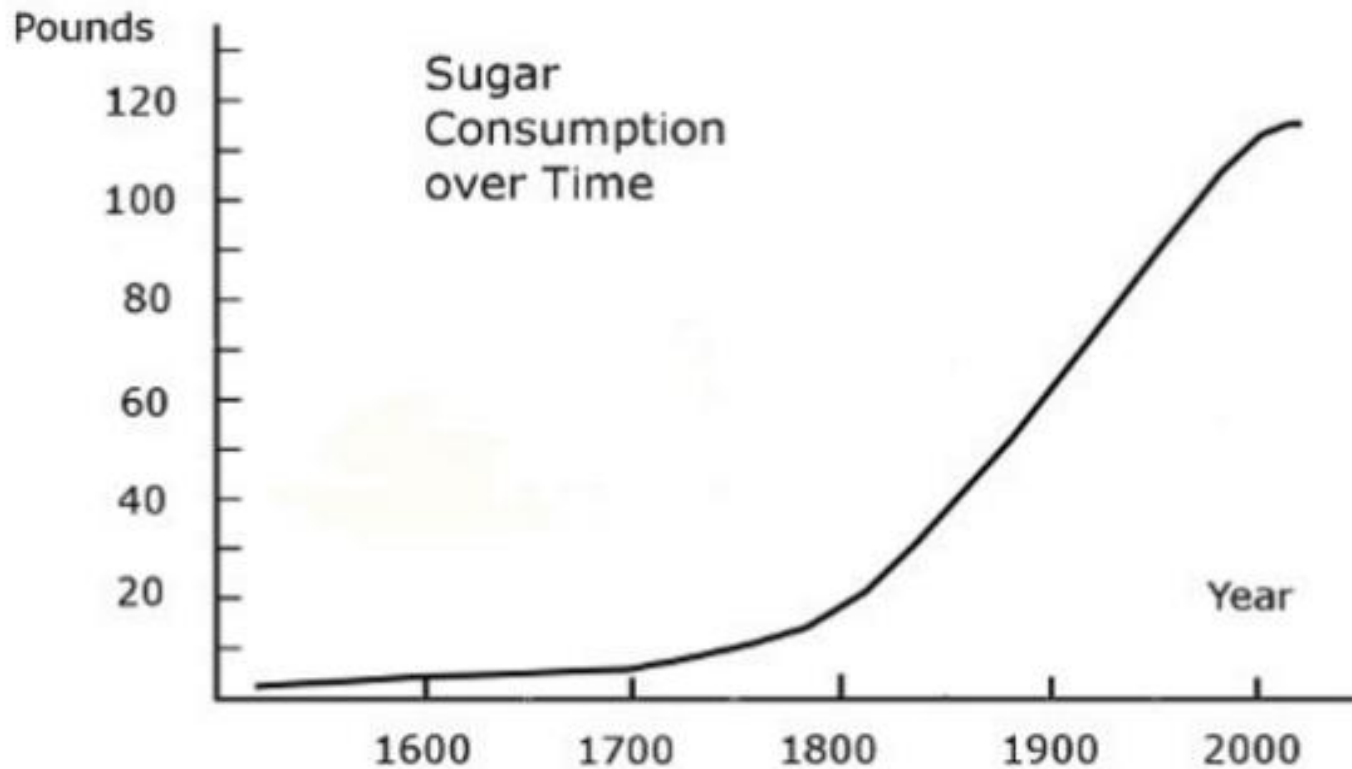
New World native plants. Clockwise, from top left: 1. Maize (*Zea mays*) 2. Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) 3. Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) 4. Vanilla (*Vanilla*) 5. Pará rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) 6. Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*) 7. Tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*)



Old World native plants. Clockwise, from top left: 1. Citrus (Rutaceae); 2. Apple (*Malus domestica*); 3. Banana (*Musa*); 4. Mango (*Mangifera*); 5. Onion (*Allium*); 6. Coffee (*Coffea*); 7. Wheat (*Triticum* spp.); 8. Rice (*Oryza sativa*)

## Sugar trade and industrial revolution

(or cotton, wool, slaves ?)





Southampton  
**SOLENT**  
University

Guano and Agricultural Revolution **solent.ac.uk**

## The Oft-Forgotten Impact of the Guano Industry: a true agricultural revolution



Stefan Lang

November 18, 2013

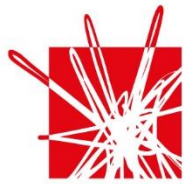
Americas, Europe

Agricultural Revolution,  
Chincha Islands, Fertilizer,  
Guano, Guano Industry,  
Guano Islands Act,  
Humboldt, Italy, Peru,  
Rome Guano

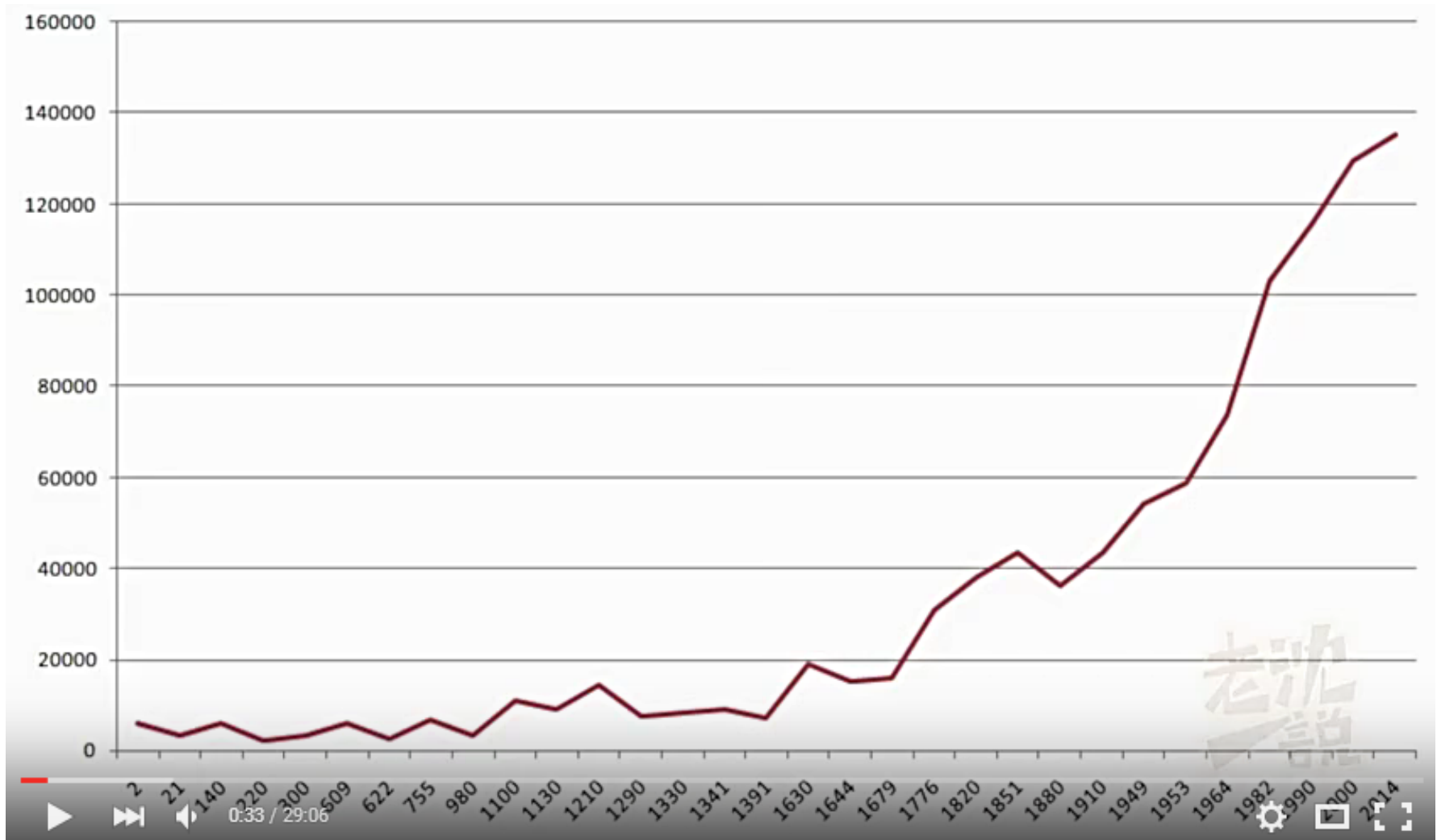
Economic cutbacks are being blamed for a 'guano alarm' in the Italian capital of Rome, [where millions of migrating starlings have left their droppings in great quantities across the city](#). In addition to its distasteful odour and sight, the guano presence is believed to pose a threat to Winter tourism if not treated.



*Romans have been less than amused by the Guano alarm*



# Growth of China's Population in History





High production; insect resistance; many stubbles annually; long term storage; reduce famine(1593)

# International trade revolution

## Revolution 1:

FOB Trade

Major issue: Risk at sea

The cornerstone of law: General average

International shipping centre:

Mediterranean;

Beneficiary: Greece



## Revolution 2:

CIF Trade

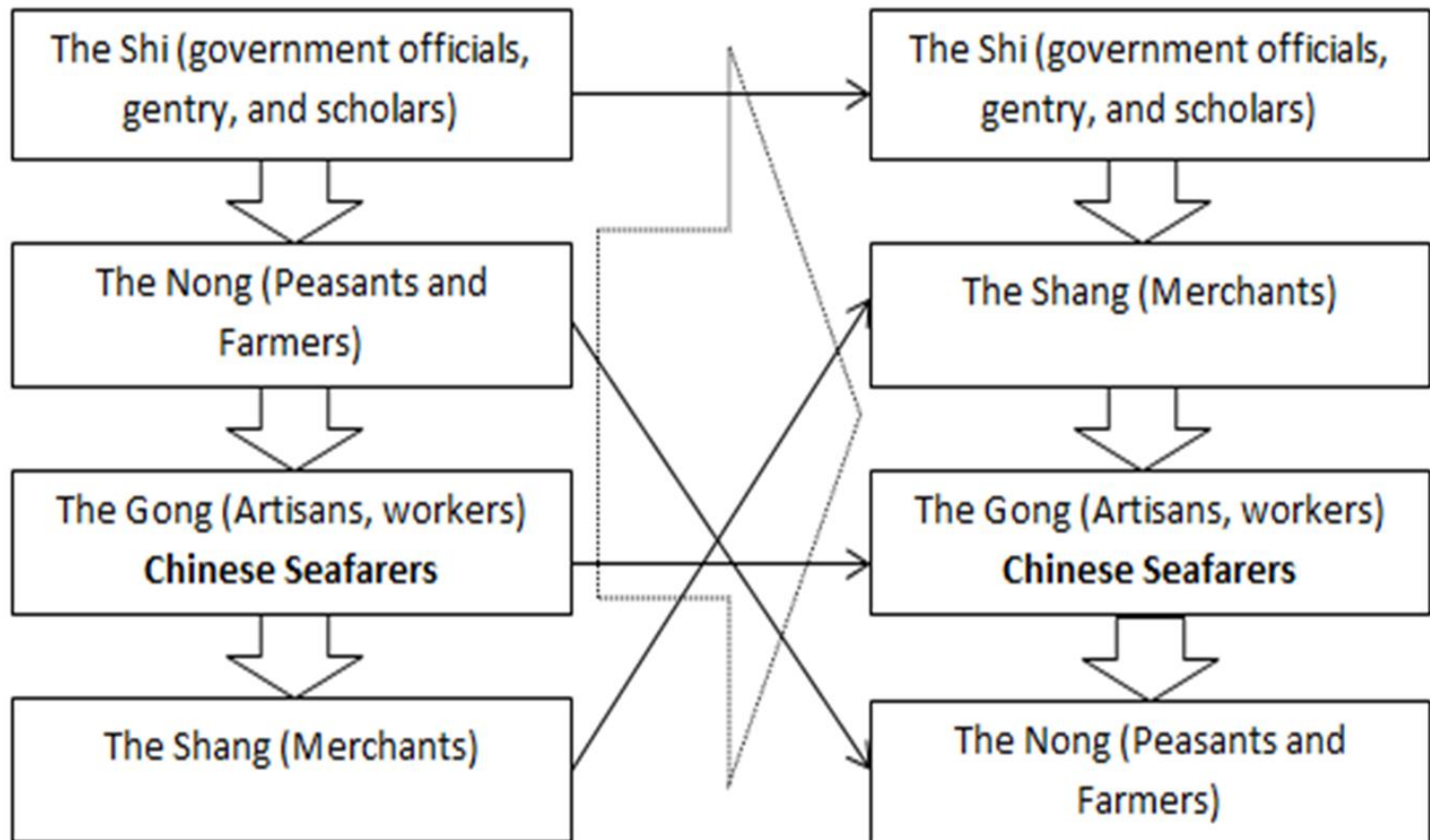
Major issue: Trust (information asymmetry)

The cornerstone of law: Bill of Lading,

International shipping centre: London;



## Chinese seafarers' social status



European missionaries & merchants arrived  
in Asia with hopes of trading with China

In 1793, Chinese Emperor Qian Long  
wrote a letter to answer a request for trade  
by British King George III:

*“Strange and costly objects do not interest me...  
As your Ambassador can see for himself,  
we possess all things. I set no value on  
objects strange or ingenious, and have no  
use for your country's manufactures.”*

**What did Emperor Long say to King George?**

**S** 1770 Britain is just  
beginning to explore  
Australia.

## The Opium War: Why?

- Britain was determined to find a product that China could not provide themselves.
- Eventually they found one: opium.
- **Opium** is an addictive narcotic made from the poppy plant.





# Opium Wars



Early in the 19th cent., British merchants began smuggling opium into China in order to balance their purchases of tea for export to Britain.

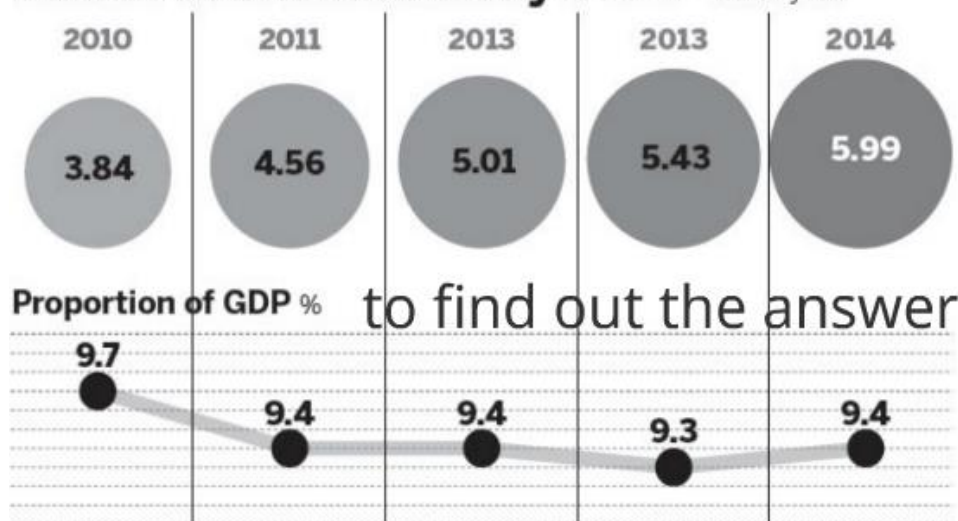


**Table 2.3. Ownership of the world fleet, as of 1 January 2015 (dwt)**

Rank (dwt)	Country/territory of ownership	Number of vessels			Dead-weight tonnage				
		National flag	Foreign flag	Total	National flag	Foreign flag	Total	Foreign flag as a % of total	Total as a % of world
1	Greece	796	3 221	4 017	70 425 265	209 004 526	279 429 790	74.80%	16.11%
2	Japan	769	3 217	3 986	19 497 605	211 177 574	230 675 179	91.55%	13.30%
3	China	2 970	1 996	4 966	73 810 769	83 746 441	157 557 210	53.15%	9.08%
4	Germany	283	3 249	3 532	12 543 258	109 492 374	122 035 632	89.72%	7.04%
5	Singapore	1 336	1 020	2 356	48 983 688	35 038 564	84 022 252	41.70%	4.84%
6	Republic of Korea	775	843	1 618	16 032 807	64 148 678	80 181 485	80.00%	4.62%
7	Hong Kong, China	727	531	1 258	56 122 972	19 198 299	75 321 271	25.49%	4.34%
8	United States	789	1 183	1 972	8 731 781	51 531 743	60 263 524	85.51%	3.47%
9	United Kingdom	477	750	1 227	12 477 513	35 904 386	48 381 899	74.21%	2.79%

## China's maritime industry's GDP

Trillion yuan

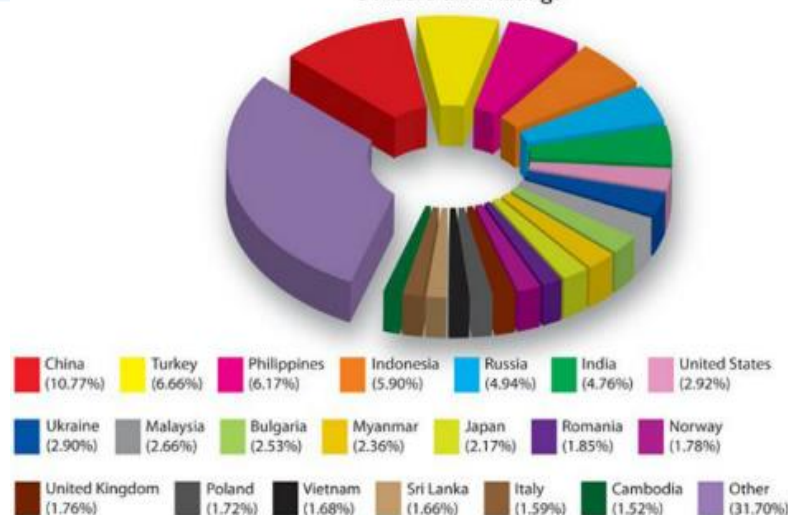


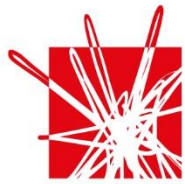
Source: State Oceanic Administration

XAN SABARÍS / CHINA DAILY

## Worldwide supply of seafarers

Officers and Ratings





## A review

In history: Traditional land power

1949-1950 77 below 1000GT river ship

1961 COSCO

1961-1980: Slow, sluggish growth

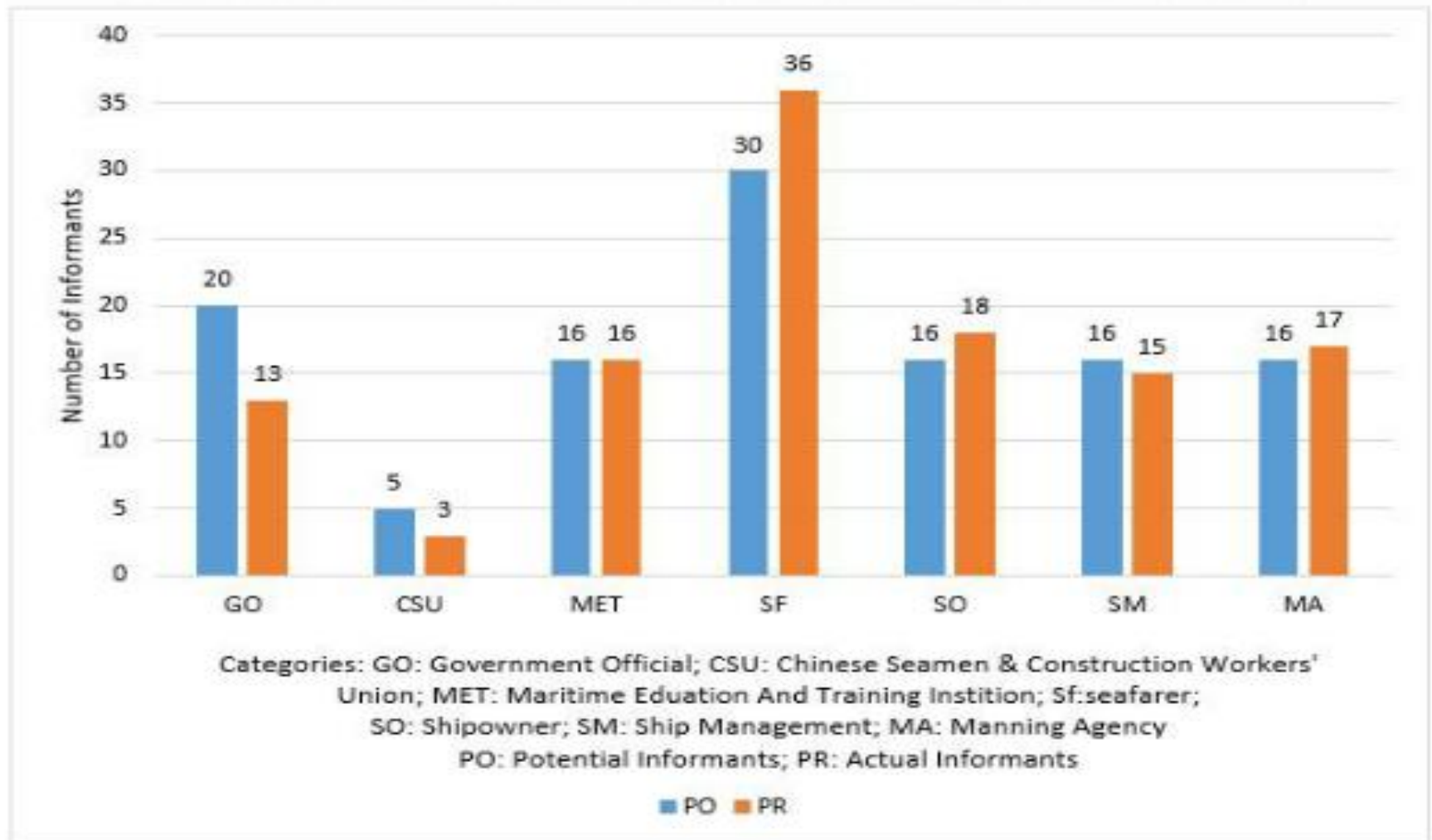
1980-2012: Rapid development



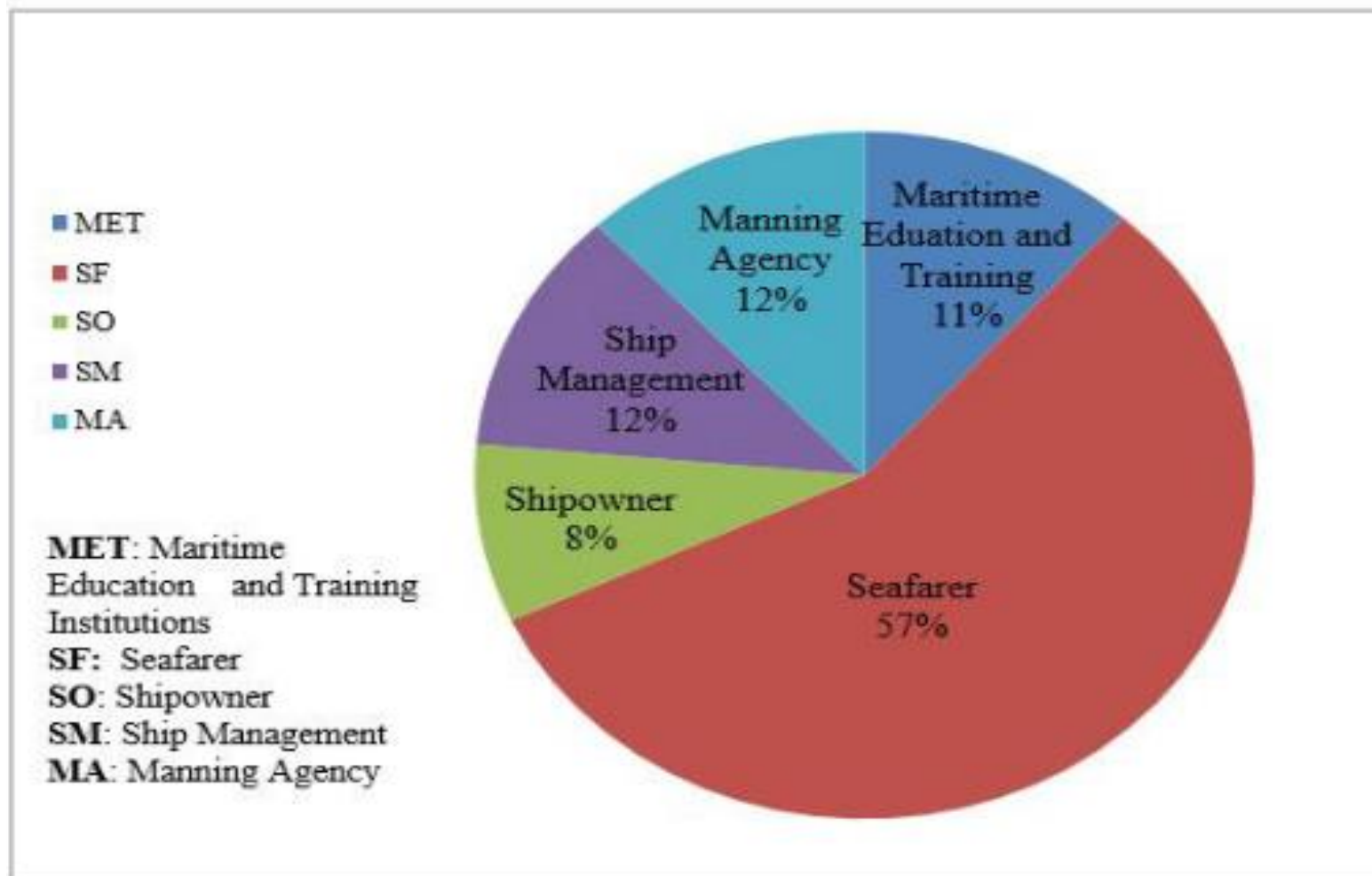
# My field work



**Figure 12: Distribution/Comparison of potential and actual informants**



**Figure 13: Distribution of stakeholders' responses to the questionnaire**



## Advantage and disadvantage of PRC shipping company

Comparison Items	PRC Shipping Company	TMN Shipping company
International rules	Disadvantage	Advantage
Ship management	Disadvantage	Advantage
Risk management	Disadvantage	Advantage
Ship financing	Disadvantage	Advantage
Ship operation	Disadvantage	Advantage
Labour cost	Advantage	Disadvantage

## Operation costs of Capesize bulk carriers

Cost Items	Percentage
Manning costs	42%
Stores & lubricants	14%
Repairs & maintenance	16%
Insurance	12%
General costs	16%

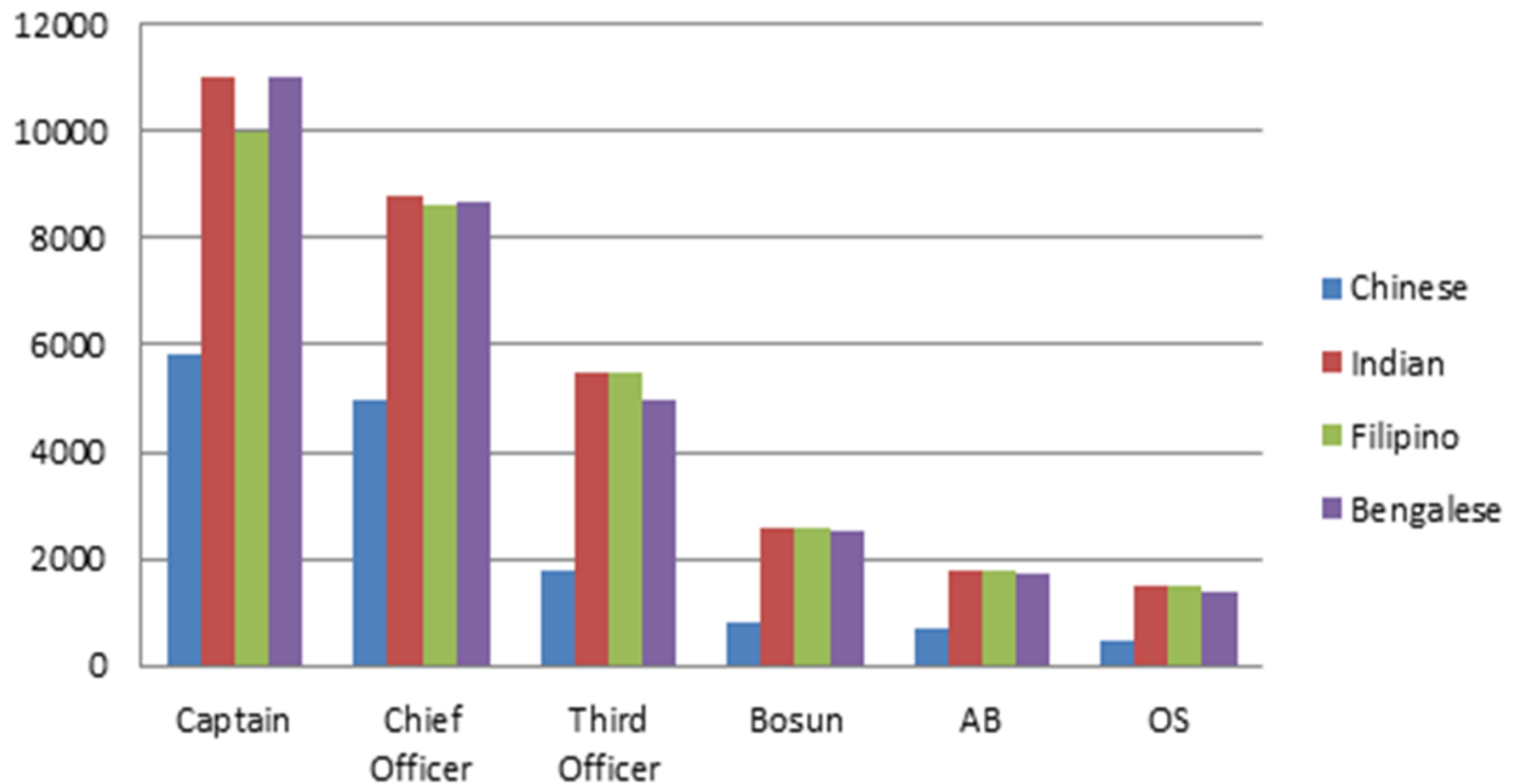
Source: Stopford, M., (Stopford, 2009:225)

## Chinese' seafarers' wages among the lowest level in Asia

<div>Nation</div> <div>Rank</div>	Chinese	Taiwanese	Singapore	Filipino	Indian
Captain	5800	10000	11000	11000	11000
Chief Officer	5000	8800	8800	8800	8800
Third Officer	2000	6000	6000	6000	6000
Bosun	800	2600	2600	2600	2600
AB	700	1800	1800	1800	1800
OS	600	1500	1500	1500	1500

Source: Manning Agency

**Comparison of Seafarers' Wages by Selected Asian Countries and Ranks (US\$)**

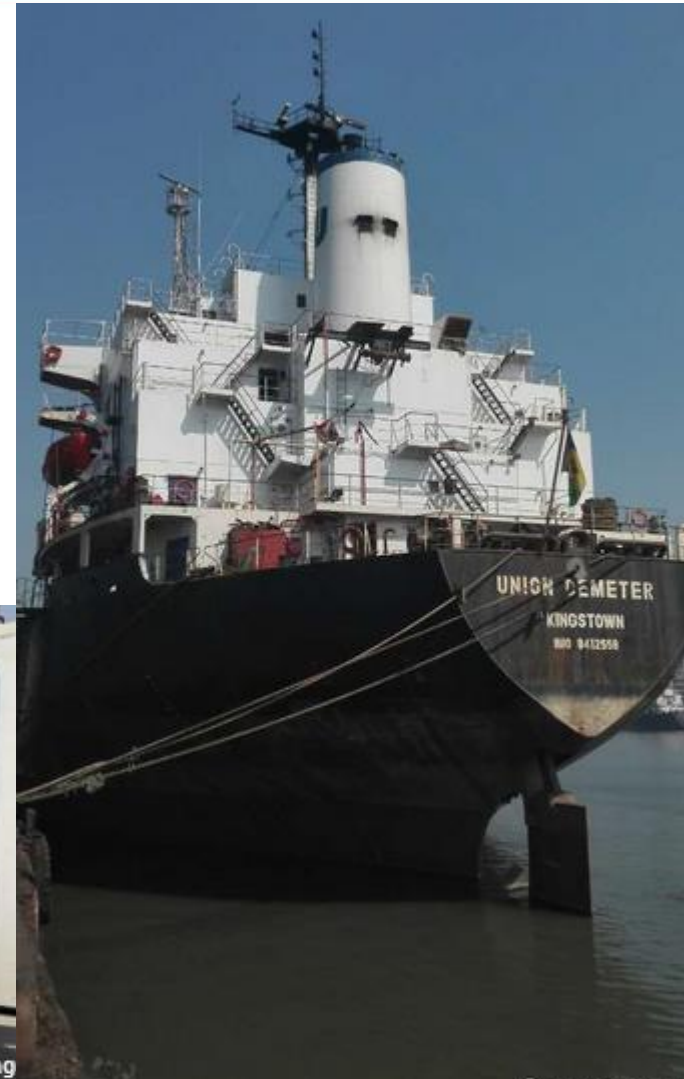


Long working hours  
Enclosed space  
Lack of rest  
Fatigue  
Low wages  
High risk  
Little job security,  
Unsanitary accommodation  
Insufficient food and  
nutrition

.....









差到船员都被人丢着不管了



## Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006



**MLC**  
SEAFARERS'  
BILL OF  
RIGHTS







- <http://www.maritime-executive.com/features/chinese-seafarers-an-invisible-group>

# Thank you for your attention!

中国（海事）中心

CCM

*School of Maritime Science & Engineering*  
**SOLENT**

[solent.ac.uk](http://solent.ac.uk)