



Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the **Saga Sapphire** of *Saga Shipping*.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

Very recently, Universal Shipmanagement has trialled four trainee dealers onboard their ships off Singapore. I congratulate our trainees for having done well, and Universal has now asked us to provide more gaming staff over the next year. This is a new line of business for us, and one we hope to develop.

We Welcome

Norwegian Cruise Line

Bimala Tamang
Yam Bahadur Gurung
Pema Doma Sherpa
Kyaw Swar Shane
Htay Hlaing

Saga Shipping

Gyan Bahadur Armaja

Carnival UK

Anjana Rai

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 777 men and 157 women on ships, a total of 934 crew and staff under management.



Congratulations to Gopi Prasad Gurung from Island Escape got the employ of the month for the month of July 2015.

World Security

Economics

The major news in the month was the steep fall in the Chinese stock market. China continues to grow, but at a slower pace, and this is causing a ripple effect on countries that provide China with commodities, countries such as Brazil, which is now in recession, and Australia, which has slowed down. The Us Federal Reserve did not increase interests rates as some had expected this month due to fears of the fragility of the world economy.



An investor looks at an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage house in Shanghai Aug. 25, 2015. A roller-coaster day in the Chinese markets saw stocks slump, rebound and then plunge again as an injection of more than \$23 billion into the markets by the country's authorities failed to boost the confidence of investors.

Nuclear

Discussions on ratification by signatory countries continue on the Iran nuclear deal. President Obama of the U.S. seems to have sufficient votes now in Congress to make the deal stick. There is no news on the North Korean nuclear programme.

Europe

The big news this month is the refugee crisis. Syrian, Iraqi, Libyan and others of any nationalities continue to flood into Greece and Italy, and from there have made their way into central Europe. Borders have ben closing all across Europe to try to prevent the influx. The E.U. has voted for a mandatory resettlement of refugees across all Schengen countries, but many in eastern Europe oppose this. The problem at Calais, small in comparison, has eased as security has been tightened at the Channel Tunnel. The situation in Ukraine has eased somewhat, with apparent agreements holding to withdraw heavy weapons.

GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 32 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

The Arab World

The Islamic State (ISIS) continues to dominate large parts of Syria and Iraq, Libya, and to cause trouble through related groups in Yemen and Nigeria. The allied air campaign attacking its targets in Iraq and Syria continues, as does the civil war in Syria, where Russia has now sent 2,00 troops to assist President Assad. continues, as does the conflict in Yemen between Sunni government, Saudi Arabian and some Gulf state forces and Shia Muslim Houthi forces. Libya remains in a state of civil war.

Smoke rises from what activists said was a military position for forces loyal to president Assad after clashes with Army of Islam fighters in Damascus on Sunday.



Afghanistan and Pakistan

There is little news this month. Both countries remain dangerously involved with Islamic militant forces and large areas of Afghanistan are under Taleban control.

Palestine

Rioting has occurred around the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, leading to Jordan expressing its concern.

Asia

Islands disputed by China and Japan in the Sea of Japan continue to cause tension, as does Chinese activity around the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. China's insurgency problems in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province and in Tibet continue. The Black Flag Movement, an ISIS-linked group, continues Muslim terrorism in Mindanao in the southern Philippines.



China's land reclamation is strengthening its effective control over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues. Malaysia has seen mass demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur and elsewhere against the Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is accused of corruptly receiving US\$681 million in his personal account. He is refusing to stand down, despite being attacked by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, his previous mentor, who joined the street protests, despite his age of 90.



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad believes Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak may be arrested if foreign countries investigate him for alleged money laundering.

The Malacca Straits

Small scale piracy continues to be a cause of concern in the Malacca Straits and nearby areas of the South China Sea.

Somalia

There are no new reports of piracy at present. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

Africa

Nigerian and Cameroon forces continue to battle Islamic militants Boko Haram in their border areas. The security situations in the Central African Republic and Mali remain disturbed. The civil war in South Sudan continues. In Burkino Faso, the Presidential Guard led by General Gilbert Diendere overthrew the President, Michel Kafando, and then reinstated him after a week as outside powers intervened.

The Americas

There is little news of a security note this month.

Myanmar

There is no news of a security nature this month.

India

There is no news of a security nature this month.



The 2015 Nepal earthquakes threatened to exacerbate the ongoing struggle with waterborne diseases by damaging already fragile sewer systems that leak pathogens into the water supply.

Nepal News

Nepal Votes on New Constitution Draft Despite Protests

13 Sept - Nepal's Constituent Assembly began voting on a draft of the Himalayan nation's much-delayed new constitution on Sunday despite protests from ethnic minority groups.

The constitution has been delayed by years of disagreements between the main political parties, and the voting on the draft is seen as major progress. The three main parties finally reached agreement this year, enabling the process to move on after years of stalemate.

Nepal has had an interim constitution since pro-democracy protests forced then-King Gyanendra to give up authoritarian rule and turn the country into a republic. A Constituent Assembly elected in 2008 failed to draft a new charter, and another assembly was elected in 2013.

Speaker Subash Nemwang commenced the voting Sunday on the draft and amendment proposals sought by assembly members.

The voting, which is expected to take at least a day or two, was boycotted by the smaller opposition parties, but they make up only 9 percent of the assembly.

The three major parties, determined to

get the constitution passed this week, had invited protesting parties and groups for weekend talks. One group met with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, but an agreement was not reached.

The new constitution proposes to split Nepal into seven federal provinces. Some ethnic groups disagree with the makeup, border and size of the provinces.

There have been weeks of protests against the draft in southern Nepal, some of which have turned violent, with at least 40 people killed in clashes between protesters and security forces. Authorities have imposed curfews in several southern towns.

In Kathmandu, the capital, about 500 protesters gathered outside the assembly hall on Sunday, demanding the voting process be stopped. The protesters also accused government security forces of using excessive force against the protests in the south.

Security was heightened around Kathmandu, with hundreds of riot police officers guarding the assembly hall.

Protests were expected to continue in Kathmandu on Monday.

Earthquakes Compound Nepal's Water Worries

16 Sept - Nepal may be infamous for

its dangerous peaks, but in its valleys lies a far greater threat to human life: contaminated water.

It is one of the world's poorest countries, and two-thirds of the population lives without toilets. Water pipes in major cities are old and crumbling — a situation made worse by the earthquake that devastated Kathmandu in April.

Diarrhea remains a major killer of Nepalese children, although the death rate was cut in half between 2000 and 2010. Much of the credit goes to a newly recruited corps of 'lady health workers' who taught basic hygiene, such as the need to use latrines and wash hands afterward. Local clinics also began stocking packets of oral rehydration solution.

Still, dirty water is a chronic problem in Nepal, especially when sewage from one village washes downstream to foul the drinking water of others. Some charities try to help by drilling wells.

The Kathmandu earthquake was followed by dire predictions that a cholera epidemic would break out as soon as summer monsoons flooded crowded tent camps. Those fears stemmed from events in Haiti, where a huge earthquake in early 2010 was followed 10 months later by a cholera epidemic that has since sickened

700,000 Haitians and killed 9,000 of them. But those predictions failed to take into account crucial differences between the countries. In 2010, Haiti had not had a case of cholera in decades, so no one in the population was immune. Cholera is endemic in Nepal, so many adults have survived mild cases in childhood and have immunity.

Haiti's epidemic, in fact, was blamed on United Nations peacekeepers from Nepal. It began in the Arbonite River near a spot into which raw sewage was leaking from the Nepalese encampment. The strain was identical to one widespread in Nepal. Monsoon season is ending in Nepal with no serious waterborne disease outbreaks — possibly because the United Nations and major relief agencies prepared for the worst, setting up safe water sources in the

constitution has now opened the path for development of the country, Yadav told the assembly.

The new constitution replaces an interim one that was supposed to be in effect for only a couple of years but has governed the nation since 2007.

Thousands of people who gathered outside the assembly hall on Sunday cheered after the announcement was made, waving the national flag as fireworks went off. In the streets of Kathmandu, people lit oil lamps and candles and buildings were decorated with coloured lights.

'Congratulations to all Nepalese' read a white and red banner strung across a street.

'This really long chapter is now finally closed,' said Shyam Sharma, a student who

the Madhesi ethnic group in southern Nepal, said the new constitution failed to address many of the issues and that protests would continue.

The violence over the past several weeks has left at least 45 people dead. Police said clashes between officers and protesters on Sunday left one demonstrator dead near Birgunj town in southern Nepal.

The three main political parties backing the constitution have made a fresh appeal for Madhesi to join talks.

'They may disagree with the size and makeup of these states, but that is not a really big issue,' the prime minister, Sushil Koirala, said on Saturday.

There are more than 100 ethnic groups in Nepal, and some say the new constitution still limits their representation. Though members of parliament are to be chosen



People light candles in Kathmandu to celebrate the new constitution.

camps or trucking water in.

But epidemics may yet happen, experts say, particularly in hard-to-reach rural areas.

Nepal formally adopts new constitution amid protests from minorities

20 Sept - Nepal has formally adopted a much anticipated and long-delayed constitution that took more than seven years to complete following a decade of political infighting.

Security was stepped up across the nation, with smaller political parties and ethnic groups opposed to the new charter issuing fresh threats of violence.

President Ram Baran Yadav signed the constitution and made the proclamation, setting off a roar of applause from members of the constituent assembly in Kathmandu.

We believe that the adoption of the new

watched the president's motorcade drive toward the assembly. 'Now the country can focus on other important issues like developing the country, improving the economy. If these politicians had agreed a few years back, we would not have wasted so much time, energy and money.' The key part of the constitution, passed on Wednesday after a decade of bickering and violent protests, sets the country up as a secular federation of seven states, each with a legislature and chief minister. However, some ethnic and religious groups say lawmakers ignored their concerns over how state borders should be defined. They want more states, including ethnically based ones, bigger territory for larger groups and more seats for ethnic minorities in parliament and government.

Laxman Lal Karna, a senior leader of

through a proportional representation vote to ensure that minority groups are represented, the groups say the number needs to be increased.

The main parties say those issues can be fixed later.

'The constitution is not something that cannot be absolutely changed. It can always be amended later when needed,' said Khadga Prasad Oli of the Communist party of Nepal Unified Marxist Leninist.

Some among the country's majority Hindu population also believe the constitution should have restored Nepal as a Hindu nation. The constituent assembly voted down that proposal.

Police said thousands of officers were guarding streets across the nation and checking passengers on highways.

Opposition parties called a general strike to protest against the constitution, but it

had little effect on the traffic and markets remained open.

Neighbouring India's external affairs ministry said in a statement that it was concerned with the situation in several parts of Nepal, calling for dialogue 'that would enable broad-based ownership and acceptance'.

Gay right activists were among those who welcomed the new constitution, saying it respected gay people's rights. 'This constitution ensures our identity, rights, participation and inclusion; a better path ahead for Nepalese LGBTs,' said Sunil Pant, a gay rights activist.

Nepal earthquake funds unclaimed and unspent as winter looms for survivors

24 Sept - Nepal's government is yet to spend any of the \$4.1bn (£2.7bn) promised by foreign governments and donor agencies for reconstruction after the earthquakes in April and May, which killed almost 9,000 people and left millions in need of aid.

The funding, which was pledged at a donor conference in Kathmandu on 25 June, remains unclaimed and unspent, despite assurances at the time from the country's prime minister, Sushil Koirala, that the Nepalese government would 'leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the support reaches the intended beneficiaries'.

'You can imagine the frustration,' said Govinda Raj Pokharel, the CEO-designate of the body slated to oversee the disbursement of the donor's funds, the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). 'It's natural donors are disappointed.'

The NRA has not yet even been formed, after the bill to establish it lapsed in parliament. Pokharel blamed the delay on wrangling among political parties over the NRA's powers, and said the government's focus has been consumed by efforts to finalise a new constitution for the country. The constitution, which has taken eight years to complete, was finally signed on Sunday.

The disbursement of the funds will be delayed further due to the forthcoming festival season, when parliament and government offices closed down for several weeks. Pokharel estimated that distribution of the money will not start until late October at the earliest.

That will come as little comfort to

villagers in Sindhupalchowk, the district worst hit by the earthquake. People there have survived the monsoon living in tin shacks, but now face the prospect of enduring a freezing winter in their temporary shelters. 'We don't have warm clothes. The water drips into our sheds,' said Hare Bahadur Bharati, 59. 'Those who will survive, will survive; those who will die, will die.'

Five months after the earthquake, Bharati's village of Barkobot resembles an ancient ruined settlement, with thick foliage now growing over the crumbling remains of people's homes. Dozens of shacks made of corrugated zinc sheets glint in the sunshine, but there is no sign that anyone is building more permanent houses.

'Over 80,000 homes were completely destroyed [in the district]; 95% are uninhabitable,' said Rupak Khadka, the police inspector at Chautara, a nearby town which suffered massive damage. 'Most people are now coping on their own. They have their own resources, they have built a small hut and now its harvesting season. But they don't have a permanent residence. That's the main problem.'

Although aid is getting through to villages like Barkobot from local and international NGOs and the government – each household has received 15,000 rupees (£95) from the local government and some rice and tarpaulin – locals say much more is needed.

'We don't have anything. Once the local government gives us money, we'll build new homes according to the maps their

engineers have prepared,' said Bharati. 'We've heard we will get 185,000 rupees (£1,150), in three months' time, but that's not enough.'

Some donor agencies, however – the UK's Department for International Development and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) among them – say they are already distributing pledged aid.

Kenichi Yokoyama, the Nepal country director of the ADB, which has contributed \$200m to the reconstruction efforts said: 'To some extent preparation activities [for reconstruction] have started ... but on the other hand, we are concerned that the reconstruction authority has not yet been established. It should have been given a strong priority by the government. International donors want to see their goodwill translated into rapid implementation.'

Pokharel is hopeful that, now the constitution has been agreed, the pace of reconstruction will pick up. 'We now have a constitution, so everyone's focus will be on reconstruction,' he said. 'I know it's frustrating, [but] we need to build a system, and sometimes it takes time ... we have been delayed, but let's have hope.'

Hope is in short supply, however, for survivors of the earthquake, a reality that 70-year-old Mayli Giri underlined as she emerged from the tin shack that has been her home through the hot summer. 'It's unbearable because of the heat,' she said, 'but in winter we will probably die of the cold.'



Residents of Barkobot, in Sindhupalchowk district, Nepal, walk among the remains of their village, five months after an earthquake destroyed virtually all the homes in the area.



Localists protest against parallel trading in Sheung Shui on Sunday.

Hong Kong News

Anti-parallel trading protests 'unhelpful for Hong Kong's image as a tourist destination', CY Leung says

8 Sept - Protests against cross-border parallel trading in Hong Kong were bad for the city's image as a tourist destination, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said today, as he renewed calls for Hongkongers to welcome travellers.

Speaking ahead of the weekly Executive Council meeting this morning, Leung described a demonstration in Sheung Shui on Sunday attended by some 150 protesters – the first rally against parallel-goods trading in the city in around half a year – as 'unhelpful'.

"The protest in Sheung Shui is completely unhelpful in building Hong Kong's image as a city for tourists," he said.

"I would fight for support from the central government on the policy level but Hong Kong society should also create an atmosphere to make guests – not only from mainland [China] but also other countries – feel at home here. [It would not work without] the participation of those minorities who protest against tourists."

Leung said the impact of a new policy limiting Shenzhen residents to one cross-border trip a week since April "would be seen gradually", adding that

"parallel-goods trading activities, which have been bothering some districts for a period of time, have now recorded an apparent drop."

The city's leader reiterated that a distinction should be made between parallel-goods trading and genuine tourism, adding that Hong Kong would continue to develop the latter.

Meanwhile, Leung said he had yet to receive any message from Liberal Party lawmaker Vincent Fang Kang, who earlier called on the administration to scrap the two-can limit on infant milk formula travellers can take across the border.

Consultants hired by the government had been closely following the market situation and it was not the right time to relax or shelve the measure at the moment, Leung said.

Separately, referring to recent meetings between central government officials and a number of pan-democrats, including Democratic Party members and outgoing lawmaker Ronny Tong Kawah, Leung said the government would continue to create more opportunities to allow different parties, including pro-democracy forces, to exchange dialogue with Beijing.

Red minibus drivers 'occupy' Mong Kok in 3-hour standoff with police

10 Sept - Around 20 red minibus drivers

blocked off a junction outside Langham Place in Mong Kok with their vehicles on Wednesday evening after discontent arose over a traffic ticket, sparking a three-hour standoff with the police. One minibus driver has been arrested and released on bail.

The incident kicked off at around 9pm at the minibus terminal on Shanghai Street. A minibus driver, 62, returned to his vehicle to find a police officer issuing a traffic ticket for violating traffic regulations.

The driver then hopped into the vehicle and drove into the bus terminus and was said to have crossed double white lines on the road while doing so.

A senior police officer was about to issue another traffic ticket for dangerous driving when the driver suddenly drove the vehicle forward. The officer said that his right hand was hit.

A number of drivers then blocked off parts of Shanghai Street with their vehicles in protest. Three out of four traffic lanes were taken over by red minibuses.

Eyewitnesses told Apple Daily that they saw police being physically violent.

During the confrontation, a minibus driver was heard to shout, 'Occupy Nathan Road!'

Due to the stand-off, vehicles were unable turn into Shanghai Street from

Argyle Street, causing a long line of traffic that extended towards Mong Kok Road. The police and minibus drivers were able to reach a consensus at around midnight. Drivers moved their vehicles off the roads and traffic gradually returned to normal. The 62-year-old driver was arrested for driving dangerously and released on bail. Both the driver and police officer were sent to hospital.



Minibus drivers' representatives will reportedly head to a meeting at the Mong Kok Police Station on Thursday afternoon to discuss the incident. The incident came amid a series of police crackdowns on red minibuses in the neighbourhood. Some drivers were said to have repeatedly violated traffic regulations.

Lead 80 times the safe limit found in water at Hong Kong public housing estate where scandal broke

11 Sept - Lead levels at nearly 80 times World Health Organisation safety standards were found in water samples

from the public housing estate where the city's tainted water scandal began, a concern group revealed after its latest round of tests.

A water sample from Yan Ching House in Kowloon City's Kai Ching Estate showed levels of the heavy metal at 793 micrograms per litre in tests by the Lead in Drinking Water Concern Group, conducted in July and last month. Of the

704 households tested, water from 328 flats in all six blocks of the estate had excessive lead levels - with 19 exceeding the WHO standard of 10 mcg/l by 10 times or more.

Water was collected from households after running taps for two minutes. A government-certified laboratory carried out the tests.

Completed in 2013, Kai Ching was the first public housing estate to have excessive lead levels found in its water in tests by the Democratic Party in early July.

The government then confirmed that

lead content in seven water samples taken from the estate exceeded WHO standards, which led to city-wide tests that exposed tainted water elsewhere.

Of 25 Kai Ching residents who underwent blood tests sponsored by the concern group, three - two elderly people in their 80s and a middle-aged woman - had excessive lead levels in their blood, ranging from 10.5 micrograms per decilitre to 18.4 mcg/dl. The safety standard for lead in blood is 5mcg/dl.

According to Yuki Leung Yuen-ting, convenor of the concern group, the water tests were funded by the Hong Kong Kowloon City Industry and Commerce Association, while the blood tests were funded by Beijing-loyalist lawmaker Ann Chiang Lai-wan.

"Ever since the lead-in-water incident broke out at Kai Ching Estate in early July, residents have been harmed both physically and psychologically," said Leung, who works there. "We hope residents could be compensated, such as by being exempted from rent and water fees."

To date, 11 public housing estates, plus private residential development The Caldecott in Cheung Sha Wan and three primary schools - St Thomas' Primary School in Sham Shui Po, St Francis of Assisi's Caritas School in Shek Kip Mei and Baptist Rainbow Primary School in Wong Tai Sin - have reported excessive lead levels.

Government test results show at least 126 residents from the affected public estates have excessive lead levels in their blood.



Almost half of the flats at the Kai Ching Estate showed excessive levels of lead in tests.

Speaking on Thursday, Secretary for Food and Health Dr Ko Wing-man said starting next Saturday quotas for blood tests will be reserved for two groups of people: residents of affected public housing estates and pupils of kindergartens at which results of water sampling tests exceed the WHO standard.

Siu Yau-wai's grandmother set to face trial

11 Sept - The grandmother of Siu Yau-wai, the 12-year-old boy who returned to the mainland after staying illegally in Hong Kong for nine years, is set to face trial for assisting and instigating another person to violate the conditions of his stay, Apple Daily reported Friday.

Chow Siu-suen, 70, was accompanied by Sze Lai Shan of the Society For Community Organization, a human rights group, and a lawyer when she appeared at the Immigration Department office in Kowloon Bay on Thursday, Apple Daily reported on Friday.

Chow was subsequently taken to the immigration office in To Kwa Wan, and was allowed to remain free until a court hearing is scheduled.

Under the existing law, any person found guilty of violating conditions of stay could face a fine of HK\$50,000 and imprisonment of up to two years.

The Immigration Department has refused to comment on the case as it has entered the legal process.

Sources said Siu is now living in Shenzhen

and his grandparents take turns to return to the mainland to look after him.

While he has already obtained a mainland identity card, he has yet to secure a place in a school.

Siu turned himself in to immigration authorities on May 21 after staying in Hong Kong illegally for nine years.

Siu's case raised an uproar in the community after he was given a temporary permit with the assistance of legislator Chan Yuen-han, prompting Siu to return to the mainland voluntarily on June 4.

MTR comes under fire again over 'oversized' luggage

16 Sept - MTR Corp. is again facing questions over its handling of 'oversized' passenger luggage, with critics accusing the commuter rail operator of double standard in enforcing the rule.

On Tuesday, a picture surfaced on social media of a uniformed high school girl being accosted by MTR staff for carrying a Guzheng, a traditional Chinese musical instrument.

In the incident which is said to have taken place at Tai Wai station, the rail staff reportedly told the girl that she cannot enter the platform as she was carrying an oversized item.

The girl didn't know what do do, and eventually left the station without getting her transport, according to an Apple Daily report.

An account of her experience soon

surfaced on social media. A Facebook page titled 'Tai Wai Alliance' drew plenty of comment, with people slamming MTR over the treatment of the girl.

The musical instrument she was carrying had roughly the same height as the girl. Netizens said MTR staff should focus more on preventing parallel-goods traders from carrying bulky goods on trains, rather than stopping locals going about their business.

Many musicians also expressed dismay, recounting their own experiences, and urged the rail operator to review its policies and regulations.

According to MTR rules, the sum of the length, width and height of a piece of hand-carried luggage should not exceed 170 centimeters.

In July, former professional snooker player Ivan Chan Kwok-ming is said to have been issued a warning letter by the MTR for carrying a 1.6-meter long cue stick on a local train.

Netizens then posted a series of photos to show that MTR enforces the rules selectively. Among the pictures was one of a man carrying a Guandao — a pole weapon used in some forms of Chinese martial arts — and another carrying a washing machine.

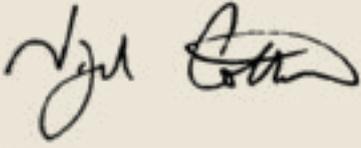
Questions were raised as to why MTR allowed such luggage, while blocking others. The rail company seems to have double standard in dealing with the cases, netizens remarked.



A school girl with Guzheng (L) being questioned by MTR staff. Netizens have blasted the rail firm, asking why it allowed items such as washing machine (upper right) and martial arts props (lower right) in the past.

Conclusion

Nepal has at last got a constitution, signed on Sunday 20 September in Kathmandu. There will now be preparations for a later election to bring in the first full government the country has had in over six years. We congratulate the people of Nepal!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director

