



## ROBERT VART

**Managing Director  
(Registered Professional  
Engineer/Chartered Engineer)**

Brookes Bell Hong Kong  
Room 2207  
Tower 2, Lippo Centre  
89 Queensway  
Hong Kong

Telephone +852 2358 4794  
Facsimile +852 2335 1684  
E-mail [robert.vart@brookesbell.com](mailto:robert.vart@brookesbell.com)

**Date of Birth** 3rd June 1946  
**Nationality** British  
**Home Telephone** +852 2358 4794  
**Mobile** +852 9031 1478

Robert Vart is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and a Supporting Member of the London Maritime Arbitrators Association.

His background is in marine engineering, holding a Combined Class 1 Certificate of Competency, and a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is listed in Hong Kong as a Registered Professional Engineer (Marine and Naval Architecture), and is a Chartered Engineer in the United Kingdom. He is a Fellow of the Society of Consulting Marine Engineers, the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology, and the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology, and is a Member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects.

Robert began his career as an engineer cadet with Ocean Fleets Ltd. (formerly Alfred Holt & Co.) and performed all of his sea service with that company, rising to the rank of second engineer officer. That sea service provided him with invaluable practical experience of the operation and maintenance of a wide variety of vessels including general cargo ships, refrigerated cargo carriers, tankers and container vessels.

Robert practises in Hong Kong and London as a high-profile independent marine consultant in the private sector. He was resident partner in Hong Kong for Brookes Bell & Co. for seven years, before founding Vart, Mathews & Company in 1987. In 2000, Vart, Mathews & Company was superseded by Robert Vart RPE Ltd.

His shore-based experience also includes a period as superintendent engineer for a major UK shipowner, gaining valuable experience in shipmanagement and shipbuilding practice.

He specialises in major hull and machinery cases, and has given expert evidence on matters such as sale and purchase disputes, speed and consumption disputes, allegations of unseaworthiness, etc., in London, New York, Honolulu, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Manila.

Recent projects have included:

- Assisting with the arbitration of numerous newbuilding disputes.
- Provision of expert evidence in a major oil pollution case.
- Assessment of shipyards for a leading bank.
- Monitoring the repair of extensive grounding damage to a Capesize bulk carrier.
- Monitoring the repair of collision damage to a large containership.
- Investigation of a number of engine room fires/explosions.
- Investigation of an alleged Marpol infringement by a vessel detained by the US Coastguard.
- Analysis of the speeds and angle of blow in a mid-ocean collision between two large bulk carriers.

### **Professional Qualifications**

B. Sc. (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering - 1974.

Chartered Engineer, UK - 1976.

1st Class (Steam & Motor) Engineer's Certificate of Competency, UK - 1976.

Registered Professional Engineer, Hong Kong - 1996.

## Membership of Professional Bodies

London Maritime Arbitrators Association - Supporting Member.  
 Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology, UK - Fellow.  
 Royal Institution of Naval Architects, UK - Member.  
 Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors, UK - Fellow.  
 Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology - Fellow.  
 Hong Kong Institute of Engineers - Fellow.  
 Hong Kong Engineers Registration Board - Registered Professional Engineer.  
 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Associate.

## Employment

2011 to date	<p><b>Brookes Bell Hong Kong</b></p> <p>Managing Director.</p>
2000-2011	<p><b>Robert Vart, Registered Professional Engineer</b></p> <p>High-profile independent marine consultant in the private sector, specialising in major hull and machinery cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well versed in newbuilding procedures and shipyard practice.</li> <li>• Based in Hong Kong with offices in Central and Sai Kung.</li> <li>• Good connections with shipbuilders in Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Australia.</li> <li>• Provision of expert evidence at recent arbitration or litigation hearings held in Hong Kong, London and Bangkok.</li> </ul>
1987-2000	<p><b>Vart, Mathews &amp; Co. Ltd.</b></p> <p>Founder and Managing Director of this marine consultancy and surveying company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of a multi-disciplinary team of up to six marine professionals.</li> <li>• Assignments involved investigation of newbuilding disputes, surveys of hull structural failures, damage assessment of major collisions, engineering aspects of machinery failures, transit damage to high-technology cargo.</li> </ul>

- Provision of expert evidence at London Arbitration hearings involving major machinery failures, damage to refrigerated cargo, sale/purchase disputes and ship performance disputes.
- Provision of expert evidence in New York litigation relating to carriage of steel products, and in Honolulu relating to fire safety and seaworthiness of bulk carriers.

1980-1987

**Brookes Bell & Co.**

Partner and resident manager in Hong Kong for this internationally renowned marine consultancy group with offices in London and Liverpool:

- Extensive experience in all aspects of shiprepair work, hull machinery and cargo surveying, as well as major marine casualty investigations.
- Provision of expert evidence at London Arbitration hearings involving major machinery failures and ship performance disputes.
- Provision of expert evidence in Hong Kong litigations relating to maritime fraud, and in Manila relating to seaworthiness.

1976-1980

**Hong Kong Government Marine Dept.**

Surveyor of Ships (Engine and Ship) to the Hong Kong Government.  
Responsibilities included:

- Supervision of the design, plan approval, construction and acceptance trials of various new government vessels.
- The survey (under SOLAS) of hull, machinery and safety equipment of various vessels, issuance of Passenger Certificates, Safety Construction and Safety Equipment Certificates, etc.
- Plan approval for the design or modification of commercial vessels operating in Hong Kong waters.
- Investigation of marine casualties resulting in injury or loss of life.

**1963-1976 Ocean Transport & Trading Ltd.**

- Sea service worldwide in various ranks from Engineer Cadet to Second Engineer Officer aboard a wide variety of vessel types, including passenger, dry cargo and crude oil carriers.
- Subsequently promoted to Superintendent and responsible, variously, for research and development, newbuilding and shipmanagement projects.

**Recent Specific Experience**

Including but not limited to:

- Loss prevention exercise for a multi-million dollar MTRC project.
- Newbuilding/warranty disputes involving failure of paint coatings, premature wear/tear of machinery, inadequacy of hatchcovers etc.
- Expert determination of a newbuilding dispute.
- Evaluation of quality control procedures at shipyards in the Pearl River delta.
- Negotiation, at a senior level, with various non-governmental organisations in Australia.
- Main engine, generator and reefer machinery failures.
- Steering gear failures.
- Fuel quality problems.