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Jipyong &amp; Jisung Attorneys At Law

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**Choon-Won Lee**  
**Jipyong & Jisung Attorneys at Law**

11th Floor, The Korea Chamber of Commerce Building  
 45 Namdaemunro 4-ga, Jung-gu  
 Seoul, 100-743, Korea  
 Tel: (82-2) 6200-1910  
 Fax: (82-2) 6200-0802  
 cwlee@jipyong.com  
 www.jipyong.com



JIPYONG & JISUNG

A Korean maritime lawyer Choon-Won Lee, also widely known as CW Lee to both the domestic and international shipping societies, is now the most well-noted as being a leading maritime lawyer representing the new generation of Korean shipping society.

CW Lee graduated from the Seoul National University, School of Law in Korea and obtained LL.B. in 1988. He completed the graduate school at the Korea Maritime University in 2001 and LL.M. at the University of Southampton, England in 2003 specialising in the maritime law stream.

He passed the High Level Government Officer Examination in 1988 and the Bar Examination in 1990 where he was admitted to the Korean bar in 1993 after completing two-year course at the Judicial Research and Training Institute conducted by the Supreme Court of Korea.

He started his profession as a young attorney at Lee & Ko in 1993 and dedicated himself to excellence in the practice of maritime law as a long-time partner at Choi & Kim. In October 2008, he joined Jisung Horizon and launched a maritime team, which is now one of the most respected maritime teams in Korea.

His practice involves all aspects of maritime, aviation, insurance and reinsurance offering a wide range of high-quality and efficient legal services in both dry and wet matters including charter party disputes, cargo claims, collisions, fire, oil-pollution, ship building, ship lease and ship finance issues. He represents most of the major P&I Clubs, ship owners including large-scale Korean ship owners, aviators and insurers worldwide and nationwide in numerous cases.

Indeed, he handled various noteworthy shipping and maritime matters such as the Hyundai Fortune, which is recorded as one of the largest casualty cases in the worldwide shipping society with the estimated total amount of dispute in approximately US\$1.5 billion including the cargo claims of US\$0.5 billion. The Hyundai Fortune, a Panamanian-flagged vessel, was set on fire near the ship's stern while navigating in the vicinity of Port Aden, Yemen in March 2006, while CW Lee successfully persuaded the court to dismiss all claims against the owners of Hyundai Fortune, and obtained a nil assessment decision in the limitation proceeding which is unprecedented in the Korean judicial history.

His recent litigation success includes the Seongho Pioce case, an international collision matter where he obtained a favorable decision from the Korean Marine Safety Tribunal to the effect that the vessel had not collided with a Chinese fishing boat. This decision has been regarded as important and exceptional in that it has overturned the conclusion of the Chinese government's investigation report.

On the other hand, in late 2008 when the worldwide shipping market was in crisis, he actively engaged in various charterparty disputes, and his practice recently focuses more on shipbuilding disputes and the rehabilitation of domestic shipping companies.

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Ali Budiardjo Nugroho Reksodiputro

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**Byung Suk Chung**

Kim &amp; Chang

**C J Kim** (see bio p. 165)

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Jipyong &amp; Jisung Attorneys At Law

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