

REWARDING JOB PROSPECTS IN MARITIME INDUSTRY



For Michael Tan, the thought of working as a lawyer in INCE & CO, an international law firm specialising in maritime law, had never crossed his mind.

However, the desire to seek an exciting career motivated this NUS Faculty of Law graduate to move into maritime law.

When Tan first shared with his fellow lawyers his desire to leave his specialisation in building and construction to pursue maritime law, they thought that it was a bizarre and risky move that may not pay off.

“Some of them linked the maritime industry to nothing but shipyards, Ducktours, and SuperStar Virgo. Others had this perception that maritime law is a niche area within the law industry which is simply too specialised for someone to switch to without difficulty,” said Tan.

Holding on to the belief that the practice of law is very much about soft skills and that with time, and that he could pick up the technicalities associated with the maritime industry, Tan was determined to move out of his

comfort zone.

This risk paid off and Tan has not looked back since.

Speaking to THE RIDGE, he said: “The maritime sector encapsulates just about everything. It’s a diverse sector that will open your eyes and broaden your outlook. Maritime law, practised in a leading firm like Ince & Co, is a dynamic field. It presents a fulfilling career which is intellectually challenging and offers immeasurable job satisfaction.”

His first encounter with Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) was when he met Mr David Chin, Executive Director of SMF, during a law programme.

Inspired by Mr Chin’s passion to raise the profile of the maritime sector among youth, Michael approached SMF to offer his voluntary services to reach out to youth.

“I realized that I am passionate about SMF’s cause and wanted to do my bit. It helps that my bosses are also supportive too.”

The MaritimeONE scholarship is an initiative spearheaded by SMF and its maritime partners. This year, 21 outstanding students were awarded the MaritimeONE scholarships to pursue maritime-related courses in Singapore and overseas.

Tan, who is an avid volunteer at MaritimeONE career fairs, believes that many young Singaporeans are not fully aware of the modernity and the diverse career opportunities that maritime sector offers to young talents. Often, they associate maritime careers to laborious jobs at dockyards and the scorching sun, he added.

Tan explained: “The maritime industry is a key pillar of our economy and contributes seven percent to Singapore’s GDP. Everyone can be in the maritime sector because no matter which specialisation you are in, you are likely to be able to contribute to shipping in some way. Don’t be constrained by others’ perceptions. It’s a huge world out there.”

The maritime sector employs 150,000 people and job

opportunities for young talents are definitely on the rise.

For those who are keen to find out more about educational and career opportunities in the maritime sector, visit www.maritimcareers.com.sg.

MARITIME TRIVIA

More than 90 percent of the world’s trade is carried by sea. In Singapore, there are about 1,000 vessels in the port at any given time.

Singapore is well-connected to more than 600 ports in over 120 countries and has achieved many accolades over the years.

Although Singapore does not produce any oil, it is one of the top bunkering ports in the world and commands about 70 percent of the world’s jack-up rig-building markets and two-thirds of the global floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) platforms.