

SPEECH BY MR S.S. TEO, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION, AT THE FAREWELL DINNER FOR MR PETER ONG, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE, 24 FEBRUARY 2009, 6.15PM, THE CHINA CLUB, CAPITAL TOWER

Mr Peter Ong, Outgoing Chairman of Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

1. On behalf of SMF, ASMI, SNAMEs and SSA, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Peter for his great contribution to the Singapore maritime industry.
2. Peter is an old friend whom I have known for many years, and I am sure he will be greatly missed by many of us in the maritime industry. Peter is a pillar of strength in the maritime industry and he is highly respected by many who have worked alongside him during his six-year term in the maritime industry.
3. Over the years, the private sector of the maritime industry and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore have established a stable and good working relationship. We have worked closely together to implement numerous initiatives to steer Singapore towards its vision to be a leading International Maritime Centre and to promote the maritime industry.

4. During his term as Chairman of MPA, Peter has successfully navigated the broad directions of its vision and advance Singapore's strategic interest. Under his leadership, he challenged boundaries and put Singapore on the international maritime front. In 2008, Singapore became the first port in the world to provide wireless broadband access to vessels within port waters with the launch of WISEPORT.
5. The Singapore ship registry retained her spot among the top 10 registries in the world, and the top registry in Asia. MPA was also ranked top among the public agencies in the Pro-Enterprise Ranking Survey, recognising MPA as the most pro-business government agency in 2008 and 2007. Our joint initiative, MaritimeONE, was also selected as one of the 13 winning projects for the Minister's Innovation Award, conferred by the Ministry of Transport in 2008.
6. These would not have been possible without the able leadership of Peter and his team of committed Board of Directors and dedicated maritime professionals in MPA. These developments have reinforced the reputation of Singapore as an International Maritime Centre and made the Singapore maritime scene more vibrant.
7. Once again, on behalf of the four partners, ASMI, SMF, SNAMEs and SSA, we sincerely wish Peter all the best for his future endeavours. Our maritime doors will always be open for you and we would welcome you as our special guest at all our networking functions and events.
8. Thank you