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**SPEECH BY MR MICHAEL CHIA, CHAIRMAN OF MARITIMEONE AND  
SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE MARITIMEONE  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY,  
12 AUGUST 2011, 7PM AT THE MEGU ROOM,  
LEVEL 2, SINGAPORE FLYER**

Mr Lucien Wong, Chairman of MPA

Mr Lam Yi Young, Chief Executive of MPA

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and a very warm welcome.

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony amidst happy parents, scholars, sponsors and strategic partners.
2. On behalf of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and our maritime partners, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the MaritimeONE scholarships, Seafaring Alternative An Investment For Life or SAIL scholarship scheme and Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Scheme or TMSS.
3. For our young scholars, this is an important milestone to mark their maritime journey as they would soon be pursuing maritime courses of diverse specialisations which will help them pave their way to be future maritime leaders.
4. The public and private sectors of the maritime community are committed to attract the best talents to steer the Singapore maritime sector forward. The MaritimeONE Scholarship initiative is one of our key initiatives to attract bright young talents to join our maritime industry.

5. As the Secretariat for MaritimeONE, SMF works closely with its partners, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) and the Singapore maritime community to synergise efforts to grow the maritime talents in Singapore.
6. Over the last few years, our hard work has shown significant results. Since the inception of the MaritimeONE Scholarship in 2007, a total of 88 scholarships, worth more than \$2.5 million dollars have been awarded to outstanding and deserving students to pursue maritime-related courses in Singapore and overseas. The number of scholarships has grown from three scholarships in 2007, to 13 scholarships in 2008, 17 scholarships in 2009, 21 scholarships in 2010.
7. This year, I am pleased to announce that we have reached a record high of 34 scholarships, the highest number of MaritimeONE scholarships ever. The total value of these scholarships stands at close to a one million dollars. This is certainly a great achievement which we hope to sustain and grow over the years.
8. As the Chairman of MaritimeONE, I am heartened by the enduring support of our sponsors. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new MaritimeONE sponsors. To all our sponsors of the MaritimeONE scholarships, both old and new, thank you for sharing our vision and pledging your support to this meaningful endeavour. Moving forward, we hope that more maritime partners would come forth to support the MaritimeONE initiative.
9. On developing manpower for the seafaring sector, the MPA, together with the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) and shipping companies have come together to provide the SAIL and the TMSS scholarships since 2002. Recipients of these two scholarships will attend seafaring diploma programmes at the Singapore Maritime Academy of Singapore Polytechnic and train to become Captains and Chief Engineers of merchant ships. Including this year's one SAIL scholarship and six TMSS scholarships, a total of 106 awards have been given out. Forty five of the scholars have obtained their first professional certificates<sup>1</sup>, qualifying them to sail as officers

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<sup>1</sup> Professional Certifications here refer to Certificate of Competency Class 3 (for Deck Officers) or to Certificate of Competency Class 5 (for Marine Engineer Officers). Prior to obtaining these qualifications, they would have sailed as cadets and not officers.

on board ships. I would like to take this opportunity to thank MPA, the shipping employers and the seafaring unions for their continuous support in both the SAIL and TMSS programmes.

10. Today, the Singapore maritime sector is home to more than 5,000 maritime-related establishments, with a workforce of 170,000 people and contributes about 7 per cent of Singapore's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As the centre of shipping shifts from the west to the east, more international maritime companies have established their regional offices in Singapore to gain better access to the fast growing Asian economies. Demand for maritime professionals will continue to surge in Singapore and career advancement opportunities will be aplenty.

11. MaritimeONE strives to lay a strong maritime foundation for our scholars. We will groom them by plugging them into the maritime community through regular contact, expanding their network of contacts through receptions and seminars and building their maritime knowledge and expertise through experiential learning programmes. In time to come, we hope that they would be our new wave of maritime leaders who will continue to propel our sector forward.

12. For someone who has been in this sector for more than 30 years, I still find myself facing new challenges and enjoying work. One word of advice to the scholars, do keep a positive attitude, have a thirst for knowledge and a strong desire to excel. The Singapore maritime sector definitely has a lot to offer and you can be assured of a fulfilling lifetime career, with great friendships forged along the way.

13. To conclude, I would like to once again extend my heartiest congratulations to our scholars. I wish you every success in your studies and an exciting maritime journey ahead.

Thank you.